

## *Comments by Retreat Participants*

“*Rachel’s Vineyard*™ went far beyond anything I could imagine. It was an incredible journey from grief to joy. The Living Scripture exercises brought depth and meaning to our experiences. I felt like God was very much in our midst. *Rachel’s Vineyard*™ was a long awaited answer to years of prayer and immense need.”

“I experienced a great inner healing as a result of attending the post-abortion retreat. I highly recommend this retreat to anyone who has felt the void and shame of the abortion experience. It is a wonderful way to forgive yourself, find the unconditional love of Christ and grieve the loss of your little child.”

“To anyone considering the need to reconcile their abortion, the retreat is a wonderful gift you can give to yourself. You are able to experience the sadness, grief, and shame in the company of other women and men feeling very much the same. You are able to turn this pain into hope with the help of nurturing counselors and supportive caretakers. You are not rushed or hurried, but given time to reflect and become open to the healing process gradually. In the spirit of penance and reconciliation this retreat addresses the pain and suffering of persons who feel their sin of abortion has [made them] outcasts from their church and their faith.”

“The *Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat*™ restored my life. I feel whole again, alive and capable of love.”

“I was terrified to take that first step forward and participate in *Rachel’s Vineyard*™. It seemed safer to remain hiding in the darkness, keeping the pain locked up deep inside rather than to risk exposing my shame to another soul. Now I am grateful to have experienced God’s healing and forgiveness with others in an atmosphere of complete acceptance and trust. *Rachel’s Vineyard*™ has been a blessing to me.”

“For 18 years I have been haunted with heavy guilt that no one could take away, tormented by thought of what my child would have been like. Through participating in *Rachel’s Vineyard*™, I was finally able to forgive myself. I know that God has given me a peaceful mind, cleansed my heart, and has washed away my guilt.”

“For the first time in 20 years, I was able to share my grief, my guilt, my anger. I was able to mourn the loss of my baby. But most important, I was able to believe that she now lives with Jesus. For a short time I could almost touch her and hold her and see her. For this, I was always be grateful. I felt Jesus calling, pulling me back - a feeling I can’t forget or deny.”

“Before this retreat I was spiritually dead. I was empty inside. I felt separated from Church and from God. After this retreat, I now feel alive, and happy to be alive. I feel the love of God inside me.”