

A unique Mission opportunity for Catholics!



Rachel's Vineyard Italy Mission: **Reaching women and men who seek Hope and Healing after losing a child through abortion**

Founded over 25 years ago by a Catholic psychotherapist from Philadelphia, ***Rachel's Vineyard*** is an after-abortion healing ministry flourishing in the United States and now expanding internationally. **Monika Rodman Montanaro, MDiv** for 12 years led ***Rachel's Vineyard*** retreats for the Diocese of Oakland, CA. After marrying an Italian, in 2010 she and her husband launched the retreats in Italy. Over the years the ***Rachel's Vineyard Italy Mission*** has grown a team of collaborators from various Italian regions who live the missionary spirituality of this apostolate.

Our work embodies the New Evangelization so desperately needed in what is rapidly becoming a “post-Christian” Europe. Since the *Year of Mercy* of 2016, **Pope Francis** has emphasized that the Church must expand its post-abortion pastoral care. The Italy Mission is doing precisely this in a secular culture that denies any such need and in an ecclesial culture that is often at a loss over how to engage the distant, the alienated and those on the spiritual periphery.

The evangelizing and reconciling nature of **this apostolate draws women and men from Sicily to Piemonte**, who travel long distances to Bologna to participate in our one-of-a kind 3-day program.

We closely collaborate with clergy both in the Diocese of Bologna and around Italy. Our apostolate is notable for its **collaborative nature** and the **strong presence of select past participants as leaders**. This pioneering ministry remains Italy's first and only Catholic outreach to women, men and couples seeking to reconcile their hidden grief associated with past abortion experiences.

While the ***Rachel's Vineyard Italy Mission*** has long enjoyed the blessing of the Cardinal of Bologna, the ministry receives no diocesan funding, is not yet financially self-supporting and thus remains largely a Mission of U.S. Catholics. Those who've already partnered in this ground-breaking apostolate include 2 Knights of Columbus Councils and a small number of mission-minded American Catholics and other Christians who keenly sense that the Gospel of Life and the Gospel of Mercy must be proclaimed with equal vigor in this new mission territory which is Italy.

In 2025, during the Jubilee of Hope, the ***Rachel's Vineyard Italy Mission*** will celebrate 15 years of activity. On this occasion we invite you to join our family of missionary partners.



www.VignadiRachele.org (click on ) / www.rachelsvineyard.org