

In her words

Healing after Abortion Ministry Director shares merciful encounter



It was Christmas Eve when I heard from her. This woman had been on our “care radar” for some time and came very close to attending a Rachel’s Vineyard™ Retreat this past year, but she could not yet find the courage. Then the email came in... “I need a priest. I want to confess this sin.”

My immediate mental reaction was... oh no.... how am I EVER going to find a priest on Christmas Eve day. But I told her I would do everything I could as I began to mentally survey who I had the best chance of locating. I knew exactly who we needed. I reached out to him, but realizing it was a far reach, I decided to wait only a few hours before reaching out to others. Within thirty minutes the phone rang. It was Father!! “Do you still need a priest?” he asked. His voice was like the shining star in the dark night calling this woman in pain to new life. I set up the time for them to meet a few hours later and engaged five of our “Vineyard Keepers” to begin praying.

I asked the woman if she would like some company. She answered, “I was alone when I had the abortions, and I have been alone ever since. I guess so... I have never had anyone to walk through anything with me. I never had the expectation.”

I contacted two of our prior retreat graduates, and they both responded immediately. With the woman’s permission, one of the graduates called to encourage her and told her they would be in front of the church waiting for her.

I continued in text communication with her, letting her know how much she was loved by God to have a priest, two graduates, and five Vineyard Keepers focused on her! She shared, “I have lived in such isolation and have avoided people and relationships because I feel so bad about my life and choices made.” I pointed out how much God wanted her back. She responded, “I know. He won’t let up... the Holy Spirit has been stirring my soul these past 10 months with a vengeance.”

A few hours later our graduate texted that they were waiting with Father at the church door. Together we prayed that she would have the courage, that this time would be the time. Then our graduates shared the joyous news — “She is here!!! She is now with Father! We are waiting for her in the pew.”

After her visit with Father, the woman’s first words to me were: “I have friends now! Father and two wonderful ladies who have invited me to coffee! It was GLORIOUS and WONDERFUL! And my job is actually very close to his parish so I will begin to receive direction from him on my lunchbreaks.” I knew then that this priest chosen to help on this day was no coincidence at all. God cared enough to handpick him just for her. I asked her if she could see how much God loves her and she agreed: “Yes, I can now... He really wanted me back!!” The two graduates hope to sponsor her on a Rachel’s Vineyard™ Retreat and will accompany her to the door that day too.

This Christmas Eve, our Lord was born in the heart of a woman who so desperately needed Him. We had the star. We had the shepherds. And the manger this time was a confessional. Praise God! Christmas Eve can happen all over again in ways we never expected!

“I was alone when I had the abortions and I have been alone ever since. ... I have never had anyone to walk through anything with me.”

More about this ministry at prolifedallas.org/healing