

Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment



Mount St. Scholastica
Atchison, Kansas

St. Scholastica Monastery
Boerne, Texas

*Benedictine Sisters of
Virginia* Bristow, Virginia

*Benedictine Sisters
of Perpetual Adoration*
Clyde, Missouri

St. Scholastica Monastery
Fort Smith, Arkansas

*Benedictine Sisters
of Baltimore*
Lutherville, Maryland

*Benedictine Women
Holy Wisdom Monastery*
Madison, Wisconsin

St. Gertrude Monastery
Ridgely, Maryland

*Benedictine Sisters of
Florida*, St. Leo, Florida

Monasterio Pan De Vida
Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico

SUMMER 2011

Issue 9

Welcome to the summer edition of the Benedictine CRI newsletter! Our theme for reflection is Monastic Economics, in light of corporate responsibility!

As you will see, we have been busy with several projects! Over the past few months, our groups have been working hard to file shareholder resolutions, dialogue with companies and vote the 2011 proxies.

Be sure to notice some of the big votes in this year's resolutions as well. Hydrofracking is a big issue right now and many of the resolutions ALMOST passed (49.50%) and others had big votes! It's been a very fruitful year!

A Statement on the Nature of Stewardship in the Lives of American Benedictine Sisters -- June 19, 1980

Monastic Economics

The rule of Benedict offers an excellent blueprint for Christian economic style without, however, addressing the issue directly. What evolved in monastic rhythm of work, prayer, and leisure was an answer to a contemporary question: what does it mean to have "enough"?

In Benedictine communities, the purpose of work is not unlimited productivity and profit, but providing service for others, opportunity for personal development, and a simple mode of life. The daily schedule is based on the assumption that with sufficient ingenuity, group effort, and self-sacrifice, a community's income will reach a level of sufficiency. In his monastic rule Benedict cautions against wastefulness (13:1) eating too much (39:7), or drinking to excess (40:6). He tells his followers not to worry about their clothing (55:7) and not to be greedy, but to sell their goods at comparatively low prices (67:8). If members have more than they need, they are to distribute it to the poor (55:9).

For the Benedictine then, ownership is always in a community context. Christian community is the refusal of being dominated by things in order to be open to those with whom we live and to have care for the poor. It is not the lack of possessions itself that shapes the Benedictine living of poverty, but the common life, the sharing of spiritual and material goods out of abundance or scarcity, so that the accumulation of possessions cannot form a bulwark against the neighbor. Instead, all is available to others for the sake of the Kingdom. Poverty is for community; it is an eschatological witness.

Table of Contents:

**Pg. 2-3: Reflections on
Monastic Economics**

**Pg. 4-5: 2010 Filings of
Shareholder Resolutions**

**Pgs. 6: Update on Hydraul-
lic Fracturing
("Hydrofracking")**

**Pg. 7. Thank you to our
members and sponsors**

**Pg. 8: Human Trafficking
and the Super Bowl**

**SAVE THE DATE! We will meet during the RCRI (formerly
NATRI) Meeting: NOVEMBER 8-11, 2011 in Saint Louis**

Reflections on Monastic Economics

IV. "THE TIME IS NOW..."

(Continued from front page)

"The Benedictine value system is directly contrary to the mechanistic attitudes of the post-industrial world. The monastic community, then, has the opportunity to be an articulate, authentic witness of conscious commitment in the midst of massive unconcern or wearying helplessness. Basic to the Benedictine spirit and tradition are:

- An involvement with the current questions of the time, making alienation and unconcern unthinkable;
- The creation of human community across social barriers;
- The concept of work for service instead of for profit;
- Sacred valuation of the individual, beyond efficiency, conformity, and institutional control;
- An awareness of the contemplative dimension of all creation
- Simplicity of life that defies consumerism;
- the reverent, wise, and just use of the goods of the earth;
- a commitment to the consequences of stable relationships.
- (to the consequences of stable relationships.

The risk, openness, vision, concern, and public influence of this monastic philosophy of life can, if Benedictines of this century are as willing as their predecessors, bring the stewardship of the planet to the local church. From that model, others may well take action as well as take courage.

The time is now, and we are here.... It is certainly a small beginning. But someone must begin to turn the widow's story into a parable, the Gospel into today's good news.

Surely us. Definitely now."

"Diarmuid O'Murchu in his book "Poverty, Celibacy, and Obedience" challenges us to live a life of mutual sustainability, a life "rich in soul rather than poor in spirit." He challenges us to replace competitive consumerism with a politics of care and compassion. Sounds like a definition of monastic economics.

Growing up on a farm, I remember neighboring farmers gathering at one farm to harvest the crops for a family who recently faced hardship or tragedy. Their concern wasn't about getting ahead of one another but rather was a genuine concern for mutual sustainability where all had what they needed. Sounds like monastic economics.

Our recent severe weather has brought out the best in many Americans. Tornadoes in Joplin and Alabama, flooding along our rivers, and fires in the southwest have seen many giving of their time and resources. It's then that our world becomes larger than ourselves and we reach out to our neighbors and to total strangers. Sounds like monastic economics.

I love being a part of our Benedictine CRI and ICCR where corporations are reminded of this larger world and challenged to act justly. That's monastic economics in action. Thanks Susan, ICCR, and each of you who file shareholder resolutions and work to build a sustainability world where all can live!"

**Sr. Rose Marie Stallbaumer, OSB
Atchison, Kansas**

In working with the Benedictine CRI efforts over the last few years, I see the Monastic Economics from the Rule of Benedict in practice everyday. By fighting for companies to have better human rights policies. Our groups have raised the issue of having a "Say on Executive Pay". We are also fighting for justice and equality. Every person has a right to a living wage and to be valued for their person, as well as their products and services. When companies choose to ignore this right in an effort to spend less, cut corners or implore greed, everyone loses in these scenarios.

The Monastic Economics picture is not complete until every member of a company from the top CEO to the bottom staff is paid a fair wage for work. This is my interpretation of Monastic Economics in action. The BCRI's efforts are living proof of progress toward this goal of equality, one step at a time.

**Brianna Dimas, intern
NYU and San Antonio**

Reflections on Monastic Economics

Monastic economics is not popular in today's culture. In the press, we read about the next corporate "take-over" or the exorbitant salaries of CEOs of companies or how we cannot afford (you fill in the blank....health care, Medicare, the current debt).

As Benedictines, I believe that we have to take each concern, study it and pray for wisdom, so we can act. What are the costs of health care for all? What are the costs of NOT having health care for all? What is the alternative to Medicare? What would that cost? What can be tweaked about our society's economic structure? What needs to be discarded?

Benedict talks about balance...in our schedule, in our meals, in our life. Benedict makes changes based on human nature, on the seasons, on the needs of the day. I think Benedict would see many things in our society that need to be changed.

- The gap between rich and poor getting wider,
- The lack of education and educational opportunities for many,
- The lack of coming together to work toward the common good,
- The lack of a vision that we are one world on planet Earth.

We have so much to add to this conversation about our vision for a sustainable world! **Sr. Susan Mika, Boerne**

We honor the contemplative dimension of creation by looking at the world through the eyes of the mystic, one who recognizes the sacredness of the created world and the connections of every living thing with the earth that supports us. So as we declare that the "time is indeed now" to work in creating environmental health, we continue our work in questioning such practices as fracking and mountaintop removal. We are concerned about all the impacts of these practices but we remember what we are doing to the Earth. Hydraulic fracturing, in blasting cracks in the underground layers of rock, must destabilize the actual crust which supports us. Removing mountain tops, to facilitate coal mining in the southern United States, is a travesty to the integrity of the earth's structure, created through eons of time.

Anna Falkenberg
Staff, Benedictine CRI

Several years ago the Benedictine Sisters of Florida engaged in intense discernment to develop a Corporate Commitment Statement. The statement was to be a driving force for the total community to "respond with the compassion of Christ" to God's poor ones. We were convinced that actions in the name of our community would be more powerful than the ministries or financial donations of individual members. More time, prayer and discussions led us to determine that, even though our financial resources were limited, we wanted to make a greater impact, create change and live out our Benedictine values especially in our local area. Over the years the ways and means we have committed to the effort have changed. We have extended the original concept to include hands-on projects and monthly donations to a variety of non-profit local organizations, national charities and involvement with the Coalition for Responsible Investment.

We know that our projects are not unique – we apply the Benedictine principle of "borrow what's successful, shape it for your own and give credit where credit is due." We share our efforts.

ON-GOING:

Community funds (totaling \$300-\$500 monthly) are donated to 3-4 non-profit entities per month. For some collections, the community matches personal contributions from individual Sisters. We strategically sit on boards with services to the homeless, underprivileged and abused. Our liturgies include prayer for deceased military and persons condemned to die that particular day. There is a weekly peace vigil on the highway in front of the monastery. Religious of the diocese and local parishioners are invited to various special events prayer services.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:

Lunch Angels for Habitat builders, Lenten soup supper fundraiser for local food pantry, "Bread for the World" Offering of Letters, Community Retreats open to Oblates and religious, contribution to local parochial school student-driven charitable project, Candlelight Vigil for victims of domestic violence, Thanksgiving Dinner for 300 guests and home-bound individuals, *Adopt-a-Senior-Citizen* Christmas gifts.

Sr. Roberta Bailey
Benedictine Sisters of Florida

Votes for 2011 Shareholder Resolutions filed

ABBOTT LABS

Pharmaceutical Price Restraint - 3.68%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia
Benedictine Sisters, Ft. Smith, Arkansas

AT&T

Network Neutrality on Wireless Networks - Omitted by SEC

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia
Benedictine Sisters, Ft. Smith, Arkansas

BANK OF AMERICA CORP

Collateral in Derivatives Trading - vote: 33.63%

Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB

Pharmaceutical Price Restraint - vote: 2.80%

Benedictine Sisters, Ft. Smith, Arkansas

CATERPILLAR, INC.

Global Set of Corporate Standards - vote: 25.20%

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia
Benedictine Sisters, Ft. Smith, Arkansas

CHEVRON

Hydraulic Fracturing - vote: 40.48%

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

Environmental Oversight—vote 25%

Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia
Benedictine Sisters, Ft. Smith, Arkansas

Withdrawal from Burma due to human rights abuse - vote: 23.94%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas

CITIGROUP INC

Restoring Trust and Confidence in the Financial System - vote: 6.87%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia
Benedictine Sisters, Ft. Smith, Arkansas

COCA COLA

Toxic Chemicals in Products- Bisphenol A (BPA) - vote: 25.05%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia
Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde

CONOCOPHILLIPS

Financial Risk of Climate Change - vote: 7.75%

Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia
Benedictine Sisters, Ft. Smith, Arkansas

DuPONT

Genetically Engineered Seed - vote: 6.32%

Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

EXXON MOBIL

Energy Independence - vote: 6.15%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

FIRST ENERGY

Coal Combustion Waste - Dialogue and Withdrawn

Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

GOLDMAN SACHS

Separation of Board Chair and CEO positions - Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas

HALLIBURTON

Review and Develop Indicators for Human Rights Policy-vote:36.15%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas
Benedictine Sisters, Ft. Smith, Arkansas

HEWLETT PACKARD CO

Separate Chair and CEO - Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas
Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

HOME DEPOT

Equal Employment Opportunity - vote: 30%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

IBM

Review Political Contributions Policy - vote: 31.36%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde

JOHNSON AND JOHNSON

Pharmaceutical Price Restraint - vote: 3.63%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas

JP MORGAN & CHASE CO

Restore Confidence in the Financial System - Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia
Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde

MCDONALDS Corp

Risk Evaluation: Childhood Obesity - vote: 7.21%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas

MERCK

Reviewing Drug Pricing Approaches - Withdrawn, dialogue

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas

METLIFE

Political Disclosure and Oversight (PRIMARY FILER) -

Withdrawn—Dialogue with corporate secretary Feb. 2011

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas

Notes for 2011 Shareholder Resolutions filed

MOTOROLA

Human Rights Policy vote 4.5%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM

Political Contributions- Global Warming - vote: 30.00%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas

PEPSICO

Political Contributions- Global Warming - Dialogue

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas

Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

PFIZER

Pharmaceutical Price Restraint - vote: 2.70%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas

PPG INDUSTRIES

Community Accountability - vote: 6.40%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas

ST. JUDE MEDICAL

Sustainability report - Climate Change Disclosure - Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas

UNITED HEALTH GROUP

Insurance Premium Price Restraint - Omitted

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas

Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

UPS

Review Political Contributions Policy - Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas

The Texas Legacy Project

In October 2010, The Texas Legacy Project, under the direction of David Todd and David Weisman, published a collection of 62 stories of courage and conservation. For a number of years, the two Davids traveled all over Texas to interview persons who were working to bring about awareness on human and environmental areas of concern.

The term "environmentalist" was seen in the broad sense -- what affects our Earth and our stewardship of what has been entrusted to us. In 2002, Sr. Susan Mika OSB was privileged to be included in the project, "Shareholders and Workers, Profits and Health" which documented the work with the Alcoa maquiladora workers (in Piedras Negras/Ciudad Acuña) when they confronted the Alcoa stockholders in 1996 at the annual meeting in Pittsburgh. The workers were earning \$21 to \$26 dollars a week for working 45 to 48 hours. They were speaking to the CEO, Paul O'Neill, who earned \$10 million that year. This segment in the book documents this story of speaking truth to power, as the workers described their working conditions and the living conditions forced on them by the low wages. Mr. O'Neill went to those plants and made substantial changes and raised the wages \$5.30 per week, per worker, even though he had assured stockholders that workers were receiving a "competitive wage". He paid profit sharing to the workers and fired the CEO of the division of the company who was overseeing those plants.



It is available through the Texas A&M University Press and the interviews can be streamed online.

SUCCESS

For the past 4 years, religious shareholders joined with unions, foundations and many other groups to raise the issue of executive compensation. These resolutions called for shareholders to have a SAY On PAY and received 20%, 30%, 40%. Some passed the 50% threshold. Among stockholders, there was clearly a concern about high executive compensation.

In the recently passed Dodd-Frank Legislation, shareholders will have a SAY on PAY, by law. This 2011 proxy season, each company had to have on the proxy ballot a section for the shareholders to vote on the executive's compensation. There was a vote on whether to have this on the ballot every year, every two years or every three years.

We'll Miss You!

On July 1, 2011, Neal Smith celebrated 25 years at Holy Wisdom Monastery and his retirement as executive director.

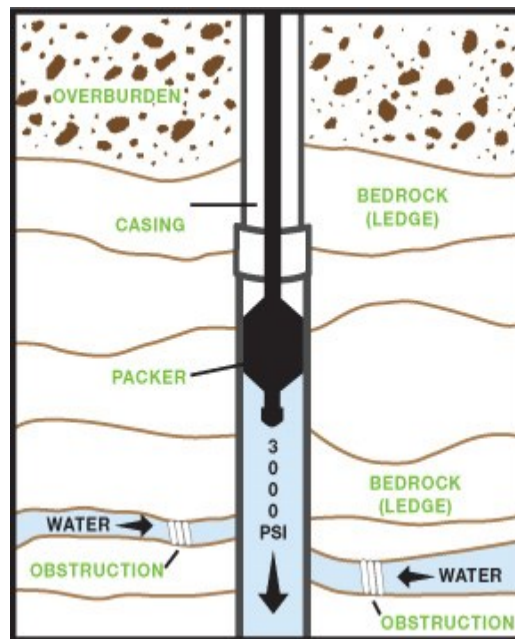
Updates on Hydraulic Fracturing

Updates on "HYDROFRACKING"

Reminder: Hydrofracking is a recent method of extracting natural gas from rock, and it can be harmful to the environment. Fracking injects millions of gallons of water, sand, and possibly toxic chemicals into each well to break apart the shale and release trapped natural gas.

Each drill injects 2 to 9 million gallons of water with 20,000 to 90,000 gallons of toxic chemicals. Hydrofracking is used by gas producers to stimulate wells and recover natural gas from sources such as coalbeds and shale gas formations. It is also used for other applications including oil recovery. Over the past few years, several key technical, economic, and energy policy developments have spurred increased use of Hydrofracking for gas extraction over a wider diversity of geographic regions and geologic formations. It is projected that shale gas will comprise over 20% of the total US gas supply by 2020.

(Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)



"Frackers don't have to disclose the chemicals used in their fluid, and the process is totally exempt from regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act."

(Source: CREDO)

EAGLE FORD SHALE (UPDATE) in Texas

- Marathon Oil said it will spend \$3.5 billion in a deal to buy 141,000 acres in the Eagle Ford shale bringing its total to 285,000 acres owned.
- Marathon will acquire 6 drilling rigs and 2 hydraulic fracturing crews. In the next year, Marathon plans to bring that total to 20 rigs and more pressure pumps.
- Pressure pumping is a component of hydrofracking, involving the process of forcing sand, water, and other substances and chemicals into formations to free oil and gas that are trapped in the rock.
- Marathon recently opened offices in San Antonio and Pleasanton and plans to hire more local workers.

(Source: San Antonio Express News)

Little Rock, Arkansas -- February 17, 2011

The U.S. Geological Society has reported more than 30 earthquakes in the since Sunday, including a magnitude 3.8 quake Thursday morning and at least 16 others occurring Wednesday, two of which were magnitude 3.2 and 3.5. More than **700** quakes have occurred in the region over the past **six months**. Scott Ausbrooks said geologists are still trying to discover the exact cause of the recent seismic activity. "It could be just a naturally occurring swarm like the Enola swarm, or it could be related to ongoing natural gas exploration in the area."

Ausbrooks said geologists don't believe the production wells are the problem, but rather the injection wells that are used to dispose of the "frack" water when it can no longer be re-used. The wastewater is pressurized and injected into the ground. Ausbrook said the earthquakes are occurring in the vicinity of several injection wells.

(Source: Sarah Eddington article: "Arkansas Mystery Quakes may be result of Fracking' Disposal")



At New York University, NYU students organized to form the group "Students Against Fracking" and held several protests against hydrofracking. Their goal was to make students and more people aware of the process and the dangers hydrofracking presents to the local water supply. They wore gas masks to draw attention. They also put together a YouTube video project to explain hydrofracking called "My Water's On Fire Tonight."

(Photo Source: Students Against Fracking)

LEGISLATION UPDATE: TEXAS PASSES DISCLOSURE OF CHEMICALS USED IN FRACKING - May 2011

Become a part of the BCRI

We invite you to join our efforts! We sent out the call in 2003 to begin to work together in a Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment (CRI). There are CRI organizations in different parts of the country, but sometimes not where our monasteries are located.

We are currently 10 Benedictine monasteries who are working together to bring about justice through stewardship of our portfolios. We work together during the course of the proxy season to monitor the companies we own. We use our stock ownership to file stockholder resolutions, dialogue with companies, vote our proxies to bring about change in the corporate world. If there is a company where no one holds stock, we ask if any group might be able to purchase stock, so we can have a voice. We support the actions of others through prayer and solidarity.

We could not do the work without the support of our members and our supporters. The following list shows the broad support we have from both monasteries and individuals. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

Special Thanks to our Generous Donors who made our work possible in the past year!

Members

- Mount St. Scholastica (Atchison, Kansas)
- St. Scholastica Monastery (Boerne, Texas)
- Benedictine Sisters of Virginia (Bristow, Virginia)
- Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (Clyde, Missouri)
- St. Scholastica Monastery (Fort Smith, Arkansas)
- Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore (Lutherville, Maryland)
- Benedictine Women Holy Wisdom Monastery (Madison, Wisconsin)
- St. Gertrude Monastery (Ridgely, Maryland)
- Benedictine Sisters of Florida (St. Leo, Florida)
- Monasterio Pan De Vida (Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico)



Supporters

Monasteries:

- Sisters of St. Benedict (Ferdinand, IN)
- Order of St. Benedict of New Jersey (Morristown, NJ)
- Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery (Yankton, SD)
- St. Walburg Monastery (Covington, KY)
- Mother of God Monastery (Watertown, SD)
- Swiss-American Benedictine Mount Angel Abbey (OR)
- House of Bread (Nanaimo, British Columbia)
- Sisters of Benedict of Colorado (Littleton, CO)
- Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict (Rock Island, IL)
- St. Paul's Monastery (St. Paul, MN)

Individuals:

- Lady Ellen and Gerald Clark
- Jo Nerlinger
- Barbara Sutherland
- Fidencia Herrera
- Fred and Ann Reissig
- Eugenia Schuler
- Cheryl Grossman
- Margaret Grohman
- Rev. Victor Goertz
- Texas State Association of Occupational Health Nurses

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE SUPER BOWL



The National Football League's Super Bowl game was held on Sunday, February 5, 2011 in the Cowboy's Stadium in Arlington which is near Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas.

What many may not realize is that high-profile sports' events are magnets for activity around human trafficking. The Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS) and the Socially Responsible Investment Coalition (SRIC) worked together to raise awareness about human trafficking and the Super Bowl. Sr. Susan Mika, OSB, Anna Falkenberg, Tosin Olamigoke and Brianna Dimas organized many volunteers from around the country to speak with 38 hotel managers near the Super Bowl site. This meant calling the hotels and speaking with the managers about what action they could take there locally to make a difference.

ECPAT USA (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking) has identified four steps that hotels can take to help combat human trafficking. Adopted from The Code, a hospitality industry tool for facilitating the protection of children's rights, the steps include:

1. Adopting a corporate policy against sexual exploitation;
2. Training staff to be observant to potential victims and, should they observe anything suspicious, making them aware to whom they should report such incidents;
3. Building alliances with police, anti-trafficking organizations, and child welfare agencies; and
4. Providing information to guests regarding national laws, hotline numbers to report potential incidents (888-373-7888), and the penalties imposed for trafficking and the sexual abuse of children, reinforcing the fact that trafficking is not accepted by the hotel.

"Only one major U.S. hotel – Carlson Companies, whose brands include Radisson Hotels and Country Inns & Suites – can be counted among the more than 900 travel and tourism companies worldwide that have adopted The Code. Carlson has long been a leader in fighting human trafficking. We are delighted that Hilton Worldwide recently applied to become a signatory to The Code." (from ECPAT - January) (*Note: As of July: Hilton Hotels and Delta Airlines have also adopted The Code.*)

The vast majority of the hotel managers were very interested in what they could do to further train their staff about this important issue. During the months leading to the Super Bowl activities, the Texas State Attorney General, Greg Abbott, had assigned a Special Investigations Unit to work with local north Texas law enforcement agencies. In a report from his office, he states that these undercover operations resulted in 133 arrests.

Benedictine **C**oalition for **R**esponsible **I**nvestment

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