Benedictine

Coalition for

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Investment



Mount St. Scholastica Atchison, Kansas

St. Scholastica Monastery Boerne, Texas Benedictine Sisters of Virginia Bristow, Virginia

St. Scholastica Monastery Chicago, Illinois

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

July 2012

Issue 10



WELCOME to our July 2012 issue of the Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment (CRI) Newsletter! As we go to press, we see the extreme heat, wildfires, drought in the western U.S. states, the flooding in Florida from a tropical storm, the frenzy surrounding elections in Mexico and the U.S. and the Supreme Court ruling on health care.

It seems appropriate this summer, to reflect on all of these issues which have profound effects on how we think about environmental, climate change and health issues. In this issue, we reflect on how to broaden our Benedictine Mission to make everyday Earth Day...a mindset where we think everyday of the long-term consequences of our actions.

We continue to monitor the companies in our portfolios by engaging in dialogue, filing shareholder resolutions and voting proxies. The 2012 proxy season is winding down. The results from 2012 shareholder filings are in and you can see them on pages 6-7. There were some astonishing votes this season as we continue to fight for the issues that are still being pushed aside. The resolutions on dollars for political spending and on the effects of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) continue to receive very high votes from stockholders. We lend our voice to encourage corporations to be more accountable in a world which increasingly reports misdeeds of corporations around the world. The world is interconnected at so many levels. Instantaneous communication makes it possible to find out what is happening, even in remote parts of the planet.

St. Benedict believed in the common good. The monastery and its schedule were designed to take into consideration the health and welfare of all. The monastery was like a city where everything went on, under the watchful eye of the Abbot or Prioress. All things were to be viewed as "sacred vessels of the altar". The monks were to sell things at a slightly lower price. Greed was not good.

The Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment (CRI) will be entering its 10th year in 2013. Sr. Bernadine Reyes and Sr. Susan Mika sent out a letter in August 2003, inviting other monasteries to work together on corporate responsibility issues. Now, there are 11 monasteries working together. This is a significant achievement. In our next issue, we will recall our history of working together. This month, the St. Scholastica Monastery in Chicago, Illinois joined the Benedictine CRI. We welcome your participation in this ministry!

.Our next CRI meeting will be during the October 16-19, 2012 Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) meeting in Orlando, Florida.

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- Pg. 4: A Special Message from our Sisters in Torreon, México
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 Shareholder Resolution
 Filings and Votes received!

Fax: 210-341-4519

 Pg. 8: Thanking our Donors

Contact Us: P.O. Box 200423 San Antonio, TX 78220 Phone: 210-348-6704

Reflections on Monasticism in World in Crisis



Seek Peace and Pursue it: Monasticism in the Midst of Global Upheaval

This is the theme of the American Benedictine Academy (ABA) conference in Duluth this summer.

Sandra Schneiders, IHM, in a recent speech at St. Mary's College entitled, "The Future of Religious Life," named four prophetic clusters of ministry:

- ☆ Social justice ministers working for systemic change;
- ☆ Direct ministry to victims of social injustice;
- ☆ Intellectuals, scholars and artists;
- ☆ Ministers providing spiritual nourishment and growth.

Sr. Laura Swan used these words in the ABA newsletter to describe the upcoming conference. Our work with corporate responsibility fits best in the first category. This theme is so important to the work we do in our ministry at the BCRI and is worth taking time to reflect on.

Reflections

The monastic witness is very needed today in our world-not just our "balanced life of prayer and work" but our "seeking peace." Today too often whatever people read/hear they believe. They must be taught to reflect, ask questions, and make connections. Our witness can encourage them. When we ask questions, like "Why is there this injustice?" and speak the Truth even if none want to hear it, we can make a difference.

Monastics have always been social justice ministers. I think of Thomas Merton who spoke out about civil rights and the war in Vietnam. I think of Benedictines For Peace who wrote a statement opposing the war in Iraq and got 300 Benedictines to sign it. Networking with BFP gives us solidarity in prayer and action with others. Remembering "If you want Peace, work for justice" keeps us focused on injustice, war, human trafficking, immigration reform.

Promoting areas of economic and environmental justice is another way Benedictines can be social justice ministers today. I see it in my monastery. We witness to "seeking peace and pursuing it" not just in our working at being a vibrant community made up of persons of different ages, backgrounds and cultures. We belong to BFP, CRI and Pax Christi; we lobby government officials, have an Offering of Letters that encourages others to write to our legislators; we have Corporate Commitment actions "...to respond with the compassion of Christ to physical, spiritual, emotional and social hungers". We educate ourselves and others about injustice and then try to act locally and globally.

Our Retreat ministry feeds spiritual hungers; we donate time/money to Catholic Charities' Walk for Life and the National Cancer Association's Relay for Life. From our personal alms we've purchased goats, bees, cows, ducks, and even a water buffalo through Heifer International for poor families in developing countries-gifts that keep on giving.

Finances, or lack there of, have taught us about living simply, and then we learned that doing so was a way to use resources wisely and to promote sustainability for the planet. We got personally into recycling years ago when we were taxed for the amount of garbage we produced. Now we recycle glass, paper, aluminum, tin and cardboard. As the Rule directs, we donate used clothing to be handed on to the poor.

We realize our good example can teach so we also conserve energy, use paper instead of plastic, hang our wash on a clothesline, and compost. Some newly built monasteries have built Green-giving witness to others.

We are discussing building smaller and Green here in St. Leo, FL. This is a new witness we surely want to give. For decades we've cared for our orange groves and preserved the beauty of nature and our land. Green is the witness of the 21st Century of peace with the earth.

☆ Sr. Mary David Hydro Holy Name Monastery, St. Leo, FL

Reflections on Monasticism in World in Crisis

It was the feast of the Visitation when I first reflected on Sister Susan's request for this newsletter. That evening at Vespers the reading was from *The Reed of God* by Caryll Houselander. It began, "Sometimes it may seem to us that there is no purpose in our lives, that going day after day for years to this office or that school is nothing else but waste and weariness. But it may be that God has sent us there because, but for us, Christ would not be there. If our being there means that Christ is there, that alone makes it worthwhile."

I suspect that the presence of religious men and women in the office of the CEO or the board room of a large corporation, raising questions that would not otherwise be asked, is indeed a "visitation" which catches many off guard and which brings Christ into the dialogue when he might not be there but for the presence of men and women committed to the Gospel values and willing to speak out on behalf of those with no voice.

The Vespers reading on the Visitation reminded me of a visit with two young computer techs who were at the monastery to install some computer equipment. Since their work took a good part of the day, they joined us for lunch in the monastic dining room. At one point, the conversation led us to tell them about the shareholder resolution that I filed on behalf of Mount St. Scholastica with AT&T on net neutrality. I sensed something in their hearts leaping for joy when they heard that we were not only aware of the issue of net neutrality, but that we cared enough for the underprivileged of our world that we filed a resolution against charging fees for the use of the internet.

The prophetic call of religious in today's world does, indeed, lead us far beyond the familiar classroom setting that we all know so well. God leads us to many unfamiliar and uncomfortable places where "but for us, Christ would not be there," and "if our being there means that Christ is there, that alone makes it worthwhile."

☆ Sr. Rose Marie Stallbaumer - Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS

For those following the Benedictine ideology, everyday is indeed Earth Day, as the prompt suggests. St. Benedict was such a huge promoter of sustainability and being good stewards of the earth. The mission and ministry of the BCRI is to fight for sustainability within corporations, especially in unsafe environmental practices, as well as, socially unjust practices. Our mission lies in the same goals as Earth Day's goals.

In 1970, Earth Day was established by U.S. Senator of Wisconsin Gaylord Nelson in response to a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California the year before. Inspired by ongoing protests of the Vietnam War happening at the same time, Nelson wanted to use that energy and newfound public awareness to focus it on pollution and the importance of environmental protection... *And it worked.* That day in 1970, over 20 million students and protesters across the U.S. gathered to hold demonstrations for a safe and sustainable environment.

So when we say that every day is Earth Day for monastics and for the BCRI mission, it is true. What do we do if not use energy and passion to promote public awareness and company awareness to environmental practices, as well as expand this idea to social justice and equality for all employees. While Nelson may or may not have had a CRI in mind when he began Earth Day, we take his motivations in stride and continue to promote sustainability even now 42 years later. Every day is Earth Day for us.

Brianna Dimas, Intern-Benedictine Sisters, Boerne

Isn't any day "Earth Day" for the monastic who has been directed to regard all the vessels of the monastery and all its substance as if they were the sacred vessels of the altar? I walk upon the path of this bright May day under an awning of jade and emerald. A sweep of blue sky spans a dome above. Two shimmering white silos stretch the bulk of their protection above me. Once full of grain, they now channel prayer connecting the earth with the heavens. The chunks of glass that now fill the once open chute flicker with the nearby tossing branches - a flash of insight in respite.

Pavers of a labyrinth beside the silos rest from the journeying feet seeking wisdom, seeking peace. A strange path that brings you closest to the center when you have the greatest distance to go; yet wends away from the center when you are closest to its entry.

A grove planted by parents who seek in one another the solace of understanding a child's life surrendered in fragility. Markers of stone, of blessing repeat the fledgling hopes once wrapped in a child. Each tree stands vigil to shade the parents in their grief. Growth thrives in growth. The ground that the master gardeners have carved into a plot for a teaching garden muses as children romp and learn of plant life native to the area. This garden teaches the gardeners as all gardens do. Soil, rock, clay, and loam, now offer life to blooms and greens; shelter to the little creatures, beauty to the beholder, wisdom to the seeker.

How did this come to be? There was a vision after acres of farm land had been sold by the community: there should be an oasis of peace, of beauty, of the sacred in the center of the development that encircles the land that is left. And so it was.

☆ Sr. Patricia Anne Driscoll Benedictine Sisters of Virginia, Bristow, VA

Special Update - July 2, 2012 Written by Sister Patricia Henry, Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon, México

I have always been inspired by the Scriptural and Benedictine call to "seek peace and pursue it" but of late the phrase has taken on a deeper meaning for me.

I am sure that you are aware of the increase in Mexico's drug-related violence in recent years. Unofficial figures place the death toll around **60,000** in Mexico since 2006 when President Felipe Calderon launched his crackdown on the cartels. That's bad enough to contemplate abstractly, but our city is situated in one of the disputed areas between two of the major cartels so those numbers have become very real and concrete to us. In the past six weeks, more than a dozen of those deaths have happened in and around our neighborhood. Some of the victims are suspected drug gang members, some are members of the security forces but too often they are innocent bystanders... all of them are God's children.





At our monastery we have learned to distinguish between fireworks and gun shots, to move away from windows and doors when we hear shots. In our schools, the children do "shoot-out" drills instead of fire drills. Our neighborhood streets, once filled with young people strolling or playing soccer until late hours on hot summer nights, are now deserted after dark.

How can we "seek peace and pursue it" in this environment? We continue to search for answers to that question and often feel extremely helpless. In the meantime we stay here as a stable, welcoming, prayerful presence among our neighbors, as one house after the other in this once densely populated area, is left abandoned by families who fear for their lives. We share our community prayer with those around us and pray unceasingly for peace. We

strive to speak and act with peace and courage in the face of the paralyzing fear that has engrossed so many families and friends. We pray for the deceased and at times we have to offer quick, almost clandestine blessings for those who have died, since the families fear reprisals for holding a wake. We console the families and try to walk with them through their valley of tears.

We strive to make CEDIMSE (St. Scholastica Center for the Development of Women) a safe and welcoming place for the women, young people and children who come. There we offer a variety of programs that include opportunities for shared prayer, therapy, workshops, relaxation, reading and summer activities for the children.



We strive to be part of the Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment and raise questions, using our portfolio. Across the imaginary borders of countries, we participate in any way that we are able.

We don't feel especially brave ourselves, but we keep responding with God's grace, prayer, community life and the support of our Benedictine Sisters in other parts of the world to sustain us, doing what we can...

"...because the time is now and we are here."

Benedictines at Work

"Everyday is Earth Day at St. Scholastica Monastery" - By Jamie Asbury, Boerne, TX



The earth is an amazing gift, along with all of its precious resources. It is our duty to keep our planet clean, healthy, and thriving, and while we make an effort to remember this all year, we especially take this into account on Earth Day. This April, in celebration of Earth Day, "Going Green" and being as ecologically conscious as possible, Sr. Bernadine Reyes, Prioress, set up a special Earth Day display at the Monastery. This exhibit featured facts about recycling, as well as actual items that are recyclable. "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" has been a strong theme at the Monastery for over 10 years, and the Sisters and Staff do their part to help take care of our planet, which desperately needs our help. Sr. Bernadine also distributed a questionnaire about recycling at the Monastery to make sure everyone was aware of the significant recycling efforts that take place every day. We all can make a difference!

Originally published in the Benedictine Voice, Summer 2012 edition

U.S. Supreme Court Rules on Health Care

On Thursday June 28, 2012, in a long-anticipated ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the individual insurance mandate as constitutional which is at the heart of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The 5-4 ruling allows the government to move ahead with implementing the legislation, some key provisions which take effect in 2014.



It advances a goal of universal health care that has eluded presidents for the past 100 years, dating back to Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909), historian Doris Kearns Goodwin said. She added, "That this has finally gotten through the Supreme Court is the very historic accomplishment that all presidents wish for when they come into office."

These are some of the parts of the Affordable Care Act:

- the expansion of Medicaid to 133% of the federal poverty level;
- the creation of Health Benefit Exchanges in order to expand health benefit coverage;
- the requirement that all individuals have health coverage and that all employers offer coverage;
- the creation of an essential benefits package;
- the establishment of medical loss ratio and premium rate reviews for insurance;
- the funding of comparative and effectiveness research.

Source: CNN Politics, June 28, 2012, "Court Ruling Cements Obama's Political Legacy, experts say"

This is a historic ruling. It is estimated that 30 million more people will be covered by the ACA.

We have worked for universal healthcare coverage because it resonates with our Benedictine mission. We have promoted principles which embrace:

- an inclusive health care system,
- an accessible health care system,
- an accountable health care system,
- a system which has quality care,
- a system which allows for health care security.

Our members have filed resolutions with companies since 2007, asking these principles be implemented. In 2011, we asked pharmaceutical companies to adopt a policy of price restraint for drugs - not a popular position with companies. We asked fast food companies to look at childhood obesity issues. We spoke to companies about the dues paid to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce which has devoted its efforts to bringing down the ACA. The companies have said to us that they were supporting the ACA, while we tried to show that their dues went to supporting an opposite effort.

As always, we are in the struggle for the long haul. Some were saying on national news programs that it took 20 or more years for Social Security to be tweaked after it was instituted in 1935.

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2012 Shareholder Resolution Votes

This is a listing of the 2012 Reported Votes company, issue, and members:

3M COMPANY

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures - Vote: 39.3%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

ABBOT

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures - Vote: 36.6%

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

AMAZON.COM

Legislative Risk of Aggressive Tax Strategies*

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

• Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Staff determined that "tax risk" was not a significant social policy risk, in spite of our best arguments.

AMEREN

Safe Coal Ash Disposal - Vote: 8.8%

Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas Benedictine Sisters of Fort Smith, Arkansas

AT&T

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures - OMITTED

Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas Benedictine Sisters of Fort Smith, Arkansas

Net Neutrality - Vote: 5.9%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

BARD, CR

Sustainability Reporting - Vote: 30.5%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

BANK OF AMERICA

Board Review Disclosure - Vote: 31.1% Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

CATERPILLAR, INC

Adopt a Global Set of Standards - Vote: 21%

Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

CHEVRON

Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing Vote: 27.0%

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

COCA COLA CO

Toxic Chemicals in Products - Bisphenol A (BPA) - OMITTEDBenedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures - WITHDRAWN

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

CVS CAREMARK

Political Contributions - Vote: 40.9%Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas
Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

EMERSON

Sustainability Report on Climate Change - Vote: 35.3% Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas

EXXON MOBIL

Hydraulic Fracturing - Vote: 29.6%

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

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Vote: 27.1%

Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

FORD Political Contributions to Trade Associations *

Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

*Ford resolution was not considered because Evelyn Y. Davis' proposals that any political influence be published in the newspaper had received less than 4% of the vote for three straight years, and the SEC said the this proposal did not meet the resubmission threshold, as stated in the SEC rules. We will

have to wait 3 years to submit a resolution on this topic.

GOLDMAN SACHS

Banking Secrecy Risks - WITHDRAWN

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

2012 Shareholder Resolution Votes

HALLIBURTON

Adopt a Human Rights Policy - WITHDRAWN

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

HEINZ Sustainable Forestry Reporting - Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia (primary filer)

HOME DEPOT

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Report - Vote: 23.6%

Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas (primary filer)

IBM

Political Contributions to Trade Associations-WITHDRAWN

Benedictine Sisters of Clyde, Missouri Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas Benedictine Sisters of Fort Smith, Arkansas

JOHNSON AND JOHNSON

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures - WITHDRAWN

Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas

JP MORGAN CHASE — Executive Pay - OMITTED

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

KRAFT

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures - Vote: 8.2%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

OCCIDENTAL

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures - WITHDRAWN

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

PEPSICO

Political Contributions to Trade Associations-WITHDRAWN

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

PFIZER

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures - WITHDRAWN

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

ST JUDE MEDICAL

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures - WITHDRAWN due to settlement

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

UNITED HEALTH GROUP

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures - Vote: 29.9%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

UNITED PARCEL SERVICE

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures - Vote: 16.9%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

URBAN OUTFITTERS

Board Diversity - Vote: 38.8%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

VERIZON

Net Neutrality - Vote: 7.9%

Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico Benedictine Sisters of Fort Smith, Arkansas

Success Stories

Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, filed a resolution in 2010 with **MetLife**, asking for a report on political contributions. Srs. Susan Mika, Rosie Stallbaumer and Lou Whipple met with the corporate secretary, Christine M. DeBiase, in February 2011. She stated it was on the Board's radar but needed to be moved up a notch. In October 2011, MetLife received high marks from the Center for Political Accountability, due to adopting a policy and posting information about political contributions on the company website. "It was the right thing to do," stated the company.

The Benedictine Sisters of Virginia filed a 2012 resolution with **Heinz**, to assess the supply chain impact (purchases of palm oil, beef, soy, sugar and paper had) on deforestation and plans to mitigate these risks. This result was Heinz agreed to participate in the Forest Footprint Disclosure Project, to continue dialoguing with shareholders from Trillium and the Benedictines, to analyze deforestation risk/opportunities and to figure out how to report publicly on these issues.

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

Our Members:

- Mount St. Scholastica (Atchison, Kansas)
- St. Scholastica Monastery (Boerne, Texas) (Ferdinand, IN)
- Benedictine Sisters of Virginia (Bristow, Virginia)
- Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
 St. Walburg Monastery (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)

Supporting Monasteries:

- Sisters of St. Benedict
- . Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart (Lisle, IL)
- (Covington, KY)
- Mother of God Monastery (Watertown, SD)
- Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict (St. Joseph, MN)
- Sisters of Benedict of Colorado (Littleton, CO)
- · Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict (Rock Island, IL)
- •Benedictine Mission House (Schuyler, NE)

Supporting Individuals:

- Lady Ellen and Gerald Clark
- Barbara Sutherland
- Fidencia Herrera
- Eugenia Schuler
- Cheryl Grossman
- Rev. Victor Goertz
- Texas State Association of Occupational Health Nurses
- Abbot Jerome Kodell (Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco, AR)
- Bill and Patricia Simmonds
- Billie Hollis
- Phillip and Jerry Ann Robinson



WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER, ST. SCHOLASTICA MONASTERY (CHICAGO, ILLINOIS).

 \mathfrak{B} enedictine \mathfrak{C} oalition for \mathfrak{R} esponsible \mathfrak{Z} nvestment P.O. Box 200423 San Antonio, Texas 78220