

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

Winter 2012

Issue 9

As we begin 2012, the Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment Newsletter shares with you the members' recent activities! We continue to monitor the companies in our portfolios by engaging in dialogue, filing shareholder resolutions and voting proxies. We lend our voice to encourage corporations to be more accountable on a number of issues.

The Benedictine CRI Meets on November 11, 2011 at RCRI meeting in St. Louis

St. Louis The annual meeting of the Benedictine CRI was held on November 11, 2011 from 12:30 -2:00 at the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI)

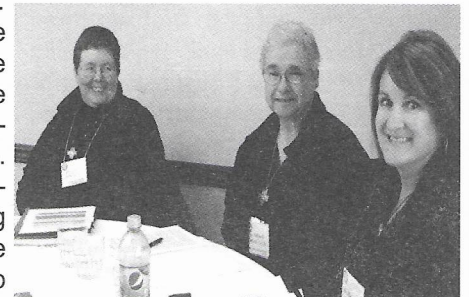


national conference in St. Louis. Sr. Rose Marie Stallbaumer welcomed the group. She called on Sr. Valerie Stark who led the group in a prayerful reflection on the needs of the 99% as represented in the Occupy Wall Street movement.

Sr. Rose Marie then gave a brief review of the history of the Benedictine CRI from its beginning in 2003. There are currently ten Benedictine communities who are members of the Benedictine CRI (listed on the sidebar next to this article).

Others were encouraged to join the Benedictine coalition and/or to support the Benedictine CRI financially to help support its ministry. It was noted that some are members of regional CRI groups.

Sr. Rose Marie also spoke on the value of the shareholder advocacy work. She noted some of the accomplishments of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) over their 40 years of existence. ICCR's accomplishments include withdrawal of corporations from South Africa during the time of apartheid, work on behalf of the environment, working against sweat shop labor and discrimination, the championing of human rights, controlling pharmaceutical drug pricing, and more recently, working with banks and financial institutions.



Sr. Susan Mika reviewed the guidelines for filing a resolutions which are governed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). You must own a minimum of \$2,000 worth of shares and hold the stock continuously for a year in order to file. The stock must then be held through the date of the annual shareholder meeting.

The resolutions cannot be more than 500 words. Filed resolutions must receive a minimum of 3% of the vote the first year in order to be brought back the following year. The second year, the resolution needs to receive 6%; the third year, 10%.

In the fall of 2011, we are filing the resolutions for the 2012 shareholder season. Resolutions are voted on for the company's annual meeting, usually in spring.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Table of Contents:

**Pg. 2-3: Monastic
Stewardship Reflections**

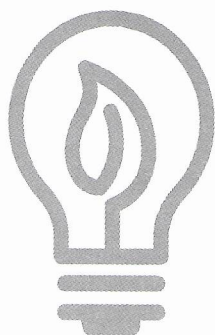
**Pg. 4: Benedictines at
Work – Fracking Update**

**Pg. 5: Benedictine CRI
Meeting Minutes**

**Pgs. 6-7: Complete List
of all the 2012 Filings
of Shareholder
Resolutions!**

**Pg. 8: Martin Luther
King Jr. 2012 March**

Monastic Stewardship Reflections



Of All Good Gifts

A Statement on the Nature of Stewardship in the Lives of American Benedictine Sisters

*Saint Joseph, Minnesota
June 19, 1980*

What can Benedictines of this century offer in a world which lacks a community conscience, a vision of the sacredness of creation and a commitment to the dignity of life? Our answer is monastic stewardship: that we use what we are and what we have for the transformation of culture because creation is the Lord's and we are its keepers; we hold it in trust. We must remember always that the earth is not so much inherited from our parents as borrowed from our children. We owe a debt to the next generations.

Two temptations face monastic communities in a world deeply in need of stewardship: the first, that we can do nothing; the second, that we must do everything. Benedictine communities are traditionally small, decentralized and local. In this very organizational fragility may well lie our strength and certainly our challenge. Like all the ordinary people of the world, the Benedictine knows what it is to be small in the face of corporate grandeur and powerless in a rigid system, yet responsible for tomorrow. Although the situation is obvious, the solutions are certainly not. Though the questions are urgent, the answers are complex.

The world has become an interlocking village — big, bureaucratic, impersonal and remote. Decisions made in one part of the world have long-range consequences on the rest of it. Pollution of the Great Lakes eventually affects the water systems of the whole earth. Destruction of the South American forest lands reduces the air quality of the entire hemisphere. Concentration of mineral resources in the hands of a few affects the development of half the families of the world. The control and consumption of energy sources by some make technology unavailable to most. The weak are oppressed. Women are exploited and excluded. The powerful are enslaved by their own selfish impulses.

These are the signs of the times. While some of us are living well, others are barely able to live at all. The question for Benedictine communities of the twentieth century (note: now, the twenty-first) is the question of the sixth century — no more, no less.

What, if any, is the role of the monastic tradition in the development of the world order and life?

We cannot do everything; we can do something.

Reflections

Sharing Benedictine values today is more important than ever. Our world is far from peaceful, settled and respected/shared by all peoples. There is war, oppression, greed and crippling poverty and disease. Fear and violence are growing around us. Believing in the blessing that the Benedictine tradition has offered through the ages and in our own personal lives, we must strive to live and share these time-tested values in a world that hungers for them.

The Benedictine Sisters of FL have a Corporate Commitment "...to respond with the compassion of Christ to the physical, spiritual, emotional, and social hungers of the people of God."

In simple ways, corporately and individually, we respond to these hungers. For example one of our Sisters is the Director of Daystar Hope, our local food bank and thrift store. We vigil weekly with signs on our highway asking people to "Pray for Peace." We're Food Angels serving lunch to Habitat workers building houses in our area. Our Peace and Justice Committee tries to educate themselves and others about issues. We do much lobbying of government officials re: areas stretching from peace to abolishing torture and the death penalty, from justice for immigrants to care for air/water/earth. **We can educate and call for justice by the words we speak, and even more so by the way we live.** We model the possibility and desirability of Community. We welcome others into our Community as Oblates, Volunteers, retreatants, guests. Employees are treated fairly and honored as partners in our endeavors twice a year with a luncheon and awards. We recognize that the most important things are not things. We reverence persons, care for and share what we have. We grow some of our own vegetables and we compost. We have been recycling for years. We are moving to going Green.

Together we can make a difference. We are members of BFP & CRI. Hand in hand with others we can take the baby steps that will help us "run the way of God's commands." If enough speak out often enough public opinion can change. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream is becoming a reality in many places. We see our Benedictine vocation as one of response-ability and a call to speak the truth and model the changes needed. By the way we live we can offer another alternative. Surely this is what Benedict did in his time and our foremothers did in theirs.

**Sr. Mary David Hydro, OSB
Holy Name Monastery -- St. Leo, Florida**

Monastic Stewardship Reflections

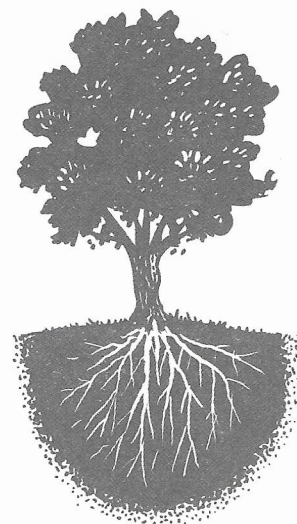
Monastics in every age have grappled with the questions of stewardship. In our age, it becomes a matter of working **within** our monastery and **outside** the monastery. We wonder if our recycling, our re-use can make a difference. When the San Antonio River is cleaned each year, the number #1 item fished out is plastic bags. A number of cities have banned the bags completely. It is hard not to use the bags. It takes a conscious effort and planning to have cloth bags or other ways to transport what you are carrying.

We are in drought in our area of the U.S. Every drop of water is precious. We get excited about any amount of rain. My father has a 2,500 gallon cistern in his back yard to harvest the rain water. It makes so much sense for us to save and re-use. It is so Benedictine and so future-oriented. What about a pipeline to carry water to stressed areas? We have a pipeline to transport oil.

We each have the potential to raise our own consciousness, that of our monastery, that of our family, that of our sphere of influence. Other see what we **do**, not always what we **say**. We are powerful because we can choose our path to better use, to re-use, to recycle.

We talk with corporations about Sustainability Reports. Now, many produce one annually. The challenge is to look at the long-term - not just the next quarter and what the dividend will be for the shareholders. What is the long-term impact on the Earth, the others affected by these corporate decisions and our role in that?

Sr. Susan Mika, OSB Benedictine Sisters of Boerne

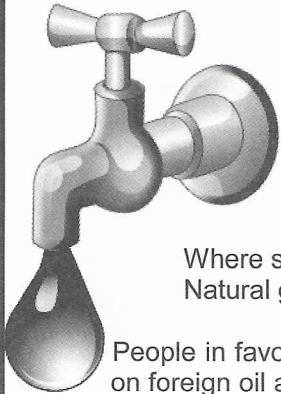


Often, we feel like small fish in a sea of greed and power, yet every shareholder resolution and every vote is a step closer to helping the cause. As stewards of the earth, we must continue to fight for environmentally safe practices and human rights. While sometimes our resolution votes seem meager in comparison to the opponents, every percentage draws more attention each year to these issues and forces other shareholders to think about issues. Even if it takes years and many more uphill battles, eventually our points need to be resolved with these companies. As heard in the many conference calls I listen in on, many questions raised with companies have no answer. There are many "umms" and "possibly in the future..." vague answers, which is a start as good as any. None of our members are satisfied with unanswerable questions, and it forces companies to reevaluate their policies (if any!) and think about the repercussions of those policies. This is how the fight becomes a matter of stewardship of the earth. Everyday we are one step closer.

Brianna Dimas, Intern, Benedictine Sisters

So what's the fuss about **palm oil**? Haven't we all grown up with Palmolive Soap? As with many things we use on a daily basis, it's a matter of sustainability, in the case of palm oil from sustainable sources. **The problem:** Approximately 85% of the world's palm oil is grown in Indonesia and Malaysia, in tropical rain forests that are cleared for the palm plantations. A huge amount of rainforest (size of Costa Rica) is lost globally every year. The effect? **environmental devastation** - Indonesia's deforestation rate makes it the 3rd largest emitter of green house gases. The loss of tropical rainforest diversity impacts climate and water as well as the loss of medicinal products and threats to wildlife (orangutans) and indigenous peoples. Some companies are beginning to recognize the material and reputational risks in deforestation and are committing to support sustainable palm oil and a moratorium on rainforest destruction. However, **Sustainable Palm Oil** currently accounts for 7% of production. So until companies commit to purchase palm oil from the members of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), consider reducing your use. Or just be aware and check those labels for ice cream, chocolate, cookies, crackers, chips, margarine, baking mixes, soap, toothpaste, laundry powders, detergents, pet food and cosmetics to name a few places where you'll find palm oil used.

Anna Falkenberg, SRIC Staff



UPDATE ON FRACKING

Excerpts from **FRACKING GOD'S CREATION**

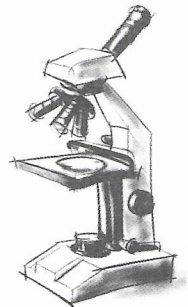
Written by: **The Rev. Mark Terwilliger, United Methodist Church (2009)**

Where should faith communities stand in battles between entrepreneurs and environmentalists? Natural gas extraction is presenting a choice between economic gain and a healthy environment.

People in favor of fracking claim it is addressing economic necessity that can reduce the U.S.'s dependence on foreign oil and gas. On a more localized basis, gas companies claim that drilling brings economic benefits, including increased employment. This premise is alluring to many small-scale farmers struggling to make their land profitable. Many gas companies assure landowners that fracking is safe and does not harm the environment.

Those opposed to fracking are concerned nonetheless with health and the environment. They question the safety of the process, where will gas companies get the millions of gallons of water needed, where will it be stored once it's brought back to the surface mixed with fluids from deep underground and those toxic chemicals.

This, of course, raises the question of how consideration for God the Creator enters into the decision-making process. Is there a way for Christians to be guided by the scriptures in applying biblical and theological considerations to gas drilling? What creative solutions could we present as this issue divides communities into opposing camps? Our solutions must be rooted in scripture, employ our ability to reason, stem from listening to people who have experienced fracking positively and negatively, and move forward our history of social and prophetic ministries. I hope the will create opportunities to engage in biblical and theological discussion about their responsibility as stewards of the earth. This should motivate and prepare them to engage in public discussions about drilling in their own communities. The time we spend thinking, praying and acting now to protect our drinking water cannot compare with the time succeeding generations could potentially spend remedying what will likely happen if we in the church remain uninformed and silent.



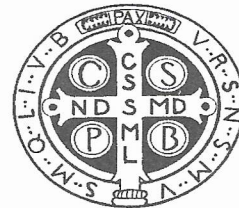
NEW DEVELOPMENTS:

1. Doctors at a U.S. conference urged fracking to STOP until the health impacts are understood and are pleading for new studies and research to be financed on the effects of fracking. The biggest concerns shared were chemicals used and tainted water supplies. (Bloomberg News, Jan. 9, 2012)
2. Bulgaria, which is almost totally dependent on Russian gas supplies, has banned Chevron Corp. from using hydraulic fracturing techniques to get at natural gas, with fears that the practice can contaminate water supplies and do other damage. The country will likely ban all hydraulic fracturing in Bulgaria and its Black Sea territorial waters. (The Washington Post, January 17, 2012)
3. Ohio has had 11 earthquakes since 2012 began. The alarming string of quakes has local citizens asking questions about hydraulic fracturing. Ohio has over 170 active disposal wells, though only recently has it become permissible to use them for disposal of out-of-state waste from fracking. Mansfield city wants Preferred Fluids Management (the company doing most of the fracking in Ohio) to pay for the testing of every tanker of fluid previously discarded in the Mansfield wells and a full geological survey of the area. Otherwise, officials said, the city will fight the drilling. (Reuters, Jan. 12, 2012)
4. Earthquakes in Blackpool, England were likely caused by fracking. A report, commissioned by energy firm Cuadrilla, said the quakes were due to an "unusual combination of geology at the well site." Cuadrilla is the company using hydraulic fracturing procedures in the area and happily confirmed that their project was not the cause of the earthquakes. Many citizens are not convinced and protests have arisen against the company. (BBC News, Nov. 2, 2011) In an interview with The Independent newspaper, Mark Miller, Cuadrilla's chief executive, admitted there were actually 50 tremors likely caused by fracking and other geologically unstable procedures. Though, he emphasized that many of the tremors were *very, very small*. (Independent, November 3, 2011)

Continued BCRI Meeting Minutes

(Continued from Page 1) The BCRI Meeting on November 11, 2011 in St. Louis

Sr. Susan encouraged members to vote their proxies and if we have money in mutual funds to ask their investment managers how/if proxies are voted. Participants were encouraged to share information with family and friends and to encourage them to vote their proxies and/or to inquire of their 401k or other retirement plan how the proxies are voted. Susan noted that some issues, such as abortion and weapons of war, are not addressed in shareholder advocacy because these companies are screened out of our



portfolios. She then reviewed efforts and accomplishments of the 2011 filing season. Shareholder resolutions were filed with thirty corporations by the Benedictine CRI members for 2011, indicating the growing involvement of members.

This past year every company was required to add a resolution requesting approval of the compensation package for their CEO to their annual shareholder meeting. They also asked how often the shareholders want to vote on this, from 1-3 years. This resolution was an outcome of the efforts of shareholder advocacy. Sr. Henry Marie asked for guidelines to help determine a reasonable compensation package. Susan offered to find some material to assist with this; not-

ing that we need to look at the number of layoffs for the company and compare wages to other CEO's.

Sr. Susan reported on efforts to raise the awareness of human trafficking at the 2011 Super Bowl in Dallas. A number of organizations, including the Texas SRIC which Susan chairs and the Texas Attorney General, collaborated on this. Their efforts paid off and 133 people were arrested for involvement in human trafficking during the Super Bowl.

Sr. Susan gave out a packet of information, including a summary of issues to be addressed in 2012, a calendar of the filing deadlines for various corporations, and a number of articles on a variety of shareholder issues was distributed to all present. It is hoped that much progress will be made regarding human trafficking with various hotels, particularly at the 2012 Super Bowl in Indianapolis. Environmental health also remains a concern. Products with Bisphenol A (BPA) that should be avoided include #3, 6, and 7 plastics. Products containing parabens, such as hand lotions, toothpaste and hair conditioners, mimic the hormone estrogen and are being studied to see if they are a part in the development of cancers. Progress has been made with Walmart on environmental concerns. Walmart needs to continue to look at labor concerns and do more robust Sustainability Reports, using standardized criteria (for example, the Global Reporting Initiative - GRI guidelines.)

There was much enthusiasm and interest among the group on a variety of advocacy topics.

There was much enthusiasm and interest among the group on a variety of advocacy topics.

Minutes by: Sister Rose Marie Stallbaumer, OSB
Photos by: Sister Lou Whipple OSB



2012 Shareholder Resolutions filed

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

3M COMPANY

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures

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

ABBOT

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures

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

AMEREN

Safe Coal Ash Disposal

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

AT&T

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures

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

Net Neutrality

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

BARD, CR

Sustainability Reporting

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

BANK OF AMERICA

Board Review Disclosure

Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

CATERPILLAR, INC

Adopt a Global Set of Standards

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

CHEVRON

Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing

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)

Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures

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

CVS CAREMARK

Political Contributions

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

EMERSON

Sustainability Report on Climate Change

Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas

EXXON MOBIL

Hydraulic Fracturing

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

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

FORD

Political Contributions to Trade Associations

Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

GOLDMAN SACHS

Banking Secrecy Risks

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

HALLIBURTON

Adopt a Human Rights Policy

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

HOME DEPOT

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas

2012 Shareholder Resolutions filed

IBM

Political Contributions to the Trade Associations

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

Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas

JP MORGAN CHASE

Executive Pay

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

KRAFT

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures

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

OCCIDENTAL

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures

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

PEPSICO

Political Contributions to the Trade Associations

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

PFIZER

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures

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

ST JUDE MEDICAL

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures

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

UNITED HEALTH GROUP

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures

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

UNITED PARCEL SERVICE

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures

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

URBAN OUTFITTERS

Board Diversity

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

VERIZON

Net Neutrality

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

2012 Proxy Season Questions

Since the Citizens' United ruling by the Supreme Court, the gates are open for unlimited donations by corporations, unions and citizens in the political election process. Many of the resolutions filed for 2012 are asking companies to be more transparent about which trade associations they pay dues to and what political corporate donations are being made.

There are still boards in 2012 which lack diversity.

There are still companies which do not make available their EEO-1 data.

We continue to raise the important questions about what the hydraulic fracturing "fracking" processes are doing to the earth, water and environment.

There are still questions to be asked about human rights' policies, access to the internet, a host of environmental concerns - including, Bisphenol A.

Beneditine Coalition for Responsible Investment
P.O. Box 28037
San Antonio, Texas 78228

IMAGES FROM THE 2012 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MARCH IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Over 100,000 people gathered for the 25th annual march to
celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King.

