

Actions of our Members

Mother's Day Vigil in DC in Support of #Bringbackourgirls

The Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore joined Asylee Women Enterprise to hold a vigil on Mother's Day 2014 in Washington DC—in front of the White House. Sr. Tricia Kirk OSB, Sr. Jo-El Mc Laughlin, OSB, Virginia Rugemer, an Oblate were accompanied by two Asylee women to rally and pray for the 250+ young women who were abducted in Nigeria.



The vigil was to create awareness and offer a presence for, not only the Nigerian girls that have been kidnapped by Boko Haram in Nigeria, but for girls and women everywhere that are stolen, traded and discarded around the world.

"We were strengthened by the encouragement and support of individuals and families that stopped at the vigil to say, "Thank You!" We were honored to stand with the mothers and fathers around the world who struggle everyday to protect their children." By : Molly Corbett with the Asylee Women Enterprise



Happy Earth Day! (l-r) Teresa Dawson Jones, Director of the Health and Wholeness Center Ministry, Sister Antoinette Van Galen, OSB, and Marilyn Rodriguez, volunteer/Oblate, remind us of the simple ways we can be good stewards of God's precious resources. Photo is from the Facebook Page of the **Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas**.

Many of the monasteries shared that they do multiple actions every day to promote good stewardship of resources, as the Rule of Benedict requires.

The Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica are involved in justice and peace ministry - inspired by the passion for justice of the Hebrew prophets as they call us, "to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8). Our commitment to justice and peace is also founded on the life and works of Jesus Christ who called us to be "beatitude people." This ministry is shaped by Catholic social teaching particularly by the U.S. Bishops Conference and was lived by all those who went before us to extend the Reign of God in the marketplace. Some of our current activities include:

- + Doing socially responsible investing and offering shareholder resolutions
- + Participating in "For Whom the Bell Tolls" to bring an end to the death penalty in the United States
- + Sponsoring Stop Trafficking: Anti-human trafficking newsletter.
- + Paying just wages and benefits to our employees.
- + Recycling and composting. (paraphrased from the Sisters' website)

Immigration Many U.S. monasteries are taking action on the immigration issue - calling congressional representatives and aiding those groups working on the issue. The Sisters in Mexico are praying with and in touch with local groups which are helping migrants. (see article on next page with more details about migration/immigration).

ICCR IN SEATTLE — Seattle

The June Annual General Meeting of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) was hosted by the Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment (CRI).

Photo—(first) Sr. Judy Byron OP and Sr. Linda Haydock, SNJM hosted the ICCR meeting.

(second) Sr. Marietta Schindler, OSB and Sr. Susan Mika OSB attended the meetings.



Migration/ Immigration

Message of the Holy Father for the World day of Migrants and Refugees, 2014

The Holy Father is precise in his call to the world and to the church on behalf of migrants:

“The reality of migration, given its new dimensions in our age of globalization, needs to be approached and managed in a new, equitable and effective manner; more than anything, this calls for international cooperation and a spirit of profound solidarity and compassion...A good synergy can be a source of encouragement to government leaders as they confront socioeconomic imbalances and an unregulated globalization, which are among some of the causes of migration movements in which individuals are more victims than protagonists...”

“ We ourselves (the Church) need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved. They are an occasion that Providence gives to help build a more just society , a more perfect democracy ... a more fraternal world and a more open and evangelical Christian community.”

Immigration - What action can we take?

Pictures speak a thousand words. The hundreds and thousands of persons, especially unaccompanied minors, streaming to our U.S. Mexico border at this time makes for a stark situation. Persons have traveled thousands of miles to reach this land. The area is overwhelmed with where to house and how to work with these immigrants. The question is always: What can we do to help?



This is from the Interfaith Immigration Coalition:

Benedictines for Peace
will sponsor a vigil—

Justice for Immigrants

each month
until the Immigration Law is passed.



The half-hour vigil will be held at 5:15 pm
at 2nd and State.

—TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2014—

Please join us.

Photo Credit : Benedictine Sisters of Erie

Do not change the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA): As the U.S. government responds to this humanitarian crisis, both President Obama and some members of Congress are proposing changes to the TVPRA. This law passed both chambers of Congress by unanimous consent and was signed by President Bush in 2008, in part to reduce the likelihood that the U.S. would deport children back into the hands of traffickers and other dangerous situations. Changes to the TVPRA would mean that children would not have a meaningful opportunity to have their story heard or apply for asylum, and would likely be deported to unsafe and potentially like threatening situations. Congress should not rescind this bipartisan law at precisely the time when more children are in need of these protections. The U.S. must show leadership by finding ways to reduce the violence these children face in their home countries, rather than immoral proposals to deport them more quickly.

- We urge Congress to provide more funds in the supplemental request to increase legal services for unaccompanied children in the United States and enhance programs to reduce violence in sending countries and create safer alternatives so that individuals, particularly children and families, are not forced to undertake dangerous journeys in the first place.
- We are also deeply concerned about language in the supplemental request that would discourage persecuted individuals in Central America from seeking asylum and protection, and that would expand the detention of children and families without addressing the unacceptable conditions of these facilities.
- Additionally, we oppose any proposals that would restrict these children's access to life-saving protection or return them to unsafe situations in which they could be further exploited.

Before the summer recess, Congress did not successfully send a bill to President Obama to sign.

Call to be connected with the offices of your U.S. representative and both of your senators: 866-940-2439.

Visit your Congress persons during the recess to voice your opinion.

Call the Benedictine CRI office if you want some suggestions of groups to support with donations—210-348-6704.

2014 Shareholder Resolutions Results

This is a list of 2014 resolutions filed, the vote and our members who filed:

AMGEN

Lobbying Expenditures - *Withdrawn due to dialogue with company*

Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico
Mount St. Scholastica

AT&T

Disclosures of Lobbying Expenditures - 24.9%

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas

CATERPILLAR, INC

Amend Company's Human Rights Policy - 26.6%

Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

CHEVRON

Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing - 26.6%

Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia
Benedictine Sisters, Baltimore, Maryland

COCA COLA CO

Board Committee on Human Rights - *Challenged at SEC*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

CONOCO PHILLIPS

Adopt Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals - 25.89%

Mount St. Scholastica
Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

CR BARD — *Do a Sustainability Report - 37.60%*

Mount St. Scholastica

DANAHER

Disclose Political Contributions - 38.5%

Benedictine Sisters, Baltimore, Maryland

DOW CHEMICAL

Refrain From Political Spending (GMOs) - *Withdrawn*

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

DuPONT

Report on Herbicides Use with DuPont Seed - 6%

Benedictine Sisters, Baltimore, Maryland
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

EBAY — *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities -*

Withdrawn due to dialogue with company

Mount St. Scholastica

EXXON MOBIL

Report on Fracking Procedures -

Withdrawn due to dialogue

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
Benedictine Sisters, Baltimore, Maryland

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions - 21.98%

Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

FACEBOOK

Disclose Lobbying Expenditures - 8.2%

Mount St. Scholastica

GOOGLE, INC

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure - 8.6%

Benedictine Sisters, Baltimore, Maryland

HESS CORP

Political Disclosure and Accountability - *Withdrawn*

Benedictine Women of Madison
Mount St. Scholastica

HOME DEPOT

EEO-1 Disclosure - 25%

Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas (primary filer)

IBM

Disclosure of Lobbying Policies - 24.2%

Benedictine Sisters, Baltimore, Maryland
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas

JP MORGAN CHASE

Disclosure of Lobbying Expenditures - 7.6%

Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico
Mount St. Scholastica

2014 Shareholder Resolutions Results

MARATHON PETROLEUM

Report on plan for Climate Change - 47.7%

Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico
Mount St. Scholastica

METTLER-TOLEDO

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Withdrawn

Mount St. Scholastica

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM

Disclosure of Federal, State & Local Lobbying - 28.88%

Mount St. Scholastica
Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico

PEPSICO

Land Rights in the Supply Chain - Withdrawn due to Dialogue with company

Benedictine Sisters, Baltimore, Maryland
Benedictine Women of Madison

PHILLIPS 66

Set Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals - 28%

Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow, Virginia

PNC FINANCIAL Report on Greenhouse Gas Emissions in companies in their lending portfolio - 22.8%

Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters, Madison

UPS Disclose Lobbying Expenditures - 16.8%

Mount St. Scholastica

WELLS FARGO

Stop Direct Deposit Advances — Withdrawn due to the company discontinuing the practice—a major victory!

Pan de Vida Monastery, Torreon, Mexico
Mount St. Scholastica

VALERO

Asking for a Climate Change Management Plan 51.6%

This non-binding resolution was passed by the Shareholders — a major victory!

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas

+++++

The Vote number in red is the percentage of shareholders Voting FOR the resolution. In year 1 of the resolution, we need 3%; year 2—we need 6%; year 3 — we need 10%; year 4 + - we need 10%. If we receive the needed vote, we can re-file the resolution the next year.

WELLS FARGO

The Wells Fargo annual shareholders' meeting was held in San Antonio at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country on April 29th. Registration opened at 7:30am. Security was extremely tight going into the meeting and during the meeting. No refreshments were served. The CEO reported that Wells Fargo had made \$6 Billion profit in the first quarter.

Sr. Susan Mika OSB represented the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia and presented a statement. Although the company had left its headquarters in San Francisco to meet in Texas, many mortgage holders followed. During the question and answer period, person after person introduced themselves and stated whose proxy they represented and proceeded to tell the gut-wrenching story of how their lives have been impacted by the protracted battles with Wells Fargo to settle their claims. One person started sobbing and then proceeded—each person only had 2-3 minutes before the Gong Bell sounded. The CEO directed the Chief Risk Officer to accept the paperwork of anyone who had brought it to the meeting. Since the sheltered location/resort area did not lend itself to a demonstration, several dozen persons held a protest a local Wells Fargo branch to call attention to the unsettled mortgage matters.

NET NEUTRALITY (also **network neutrality** or **Internet neutrality**) is the principle that Internet service providers and governments should treat all data on the Internet equally, not discriminating or charging differentially by user, content, site, platform, application, type of attached equipment, and modes of communication. The term was coined by Columbia media law professor Tim Wu in 2003 as an extension of the longstanding concept of a common carrier. Proponents often see net neutrality as an important component of an **open Internet**, where policies such as equal treatment of data and open web standards allow those on the Internet to easily communicate and conduct business without interference from a third party. A "closed Internet" refers to the opposite situation, in which established corporations or governments favor certain uses. A closed Internet may have restricted access to necessary web standards, artificially degrade some services, or explicitly filter out content. (from Wikipedia).

Religious shareholders had filed resolutions asking FOR net neutrality. On May 15, 2014, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decided to consider two options regarding Internet services: first, permit fast and slow broadband lanes, thereby compromising net neutrality; and second, reclassify broadband as a telecommunication service, thereby preserving net neutrality. To date, the FCC has received 780,000 comments – far more than for any previous rule-making proceeding before the FCC. (New York Times, 07-15-14)

Environmental Issues

IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its fifth assessment report in April 2014. The impacts of climate change and the ways in which both humans and nature can adapt to an altered environment are the focus of the second part of the IPCC's fifth assessment report, which was released on Sunday. It follows the September release of the first portion of the report, which focused on the scientific evidence for global warming and stated unequivocally that humans are behind the warming of Earth's average temperature. Climate change has already contributed to a 1.6°F rise in global average temperature since the start of the 20th century and the rate of warming is likely to increase into the 21st century. The second report makes clear that in addition to a change in the global average temperature; other climate change impacts observed to date have hit all regions of the world and affected everything from access to food and water to extreme weather.

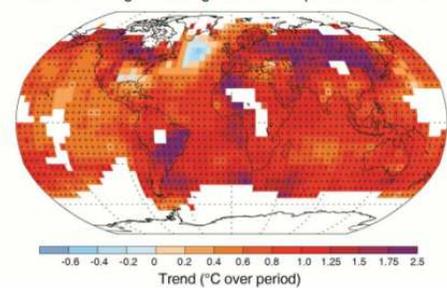
"In view of these impacts, and those that we have projected for the future, no one on this planet is going to be untouched by climate change," Rajendra Pachauri, the chairman of the IPCC, said in the press conference announcing the report's conclusions. Among the impacts of climate change that are already occurring, the report calls out: shifts in the ranges of species and changes to migration patterns, which could alter where key ecosystems such as valuable fisheries are found; changes in precipitation patterns, which affect the availability of water for drinking and agriculture; the effects of climate extremes on crops, which could threaten food supplies and the livelihoods of the world's farmers; and increases in health impacts, for example the number of deaths from heat waves, like the one that killed thousands in Europe in 2003.

All of these impacts are also listed as major future concerns around the world. The report also:

- calls out sea-level rise as a major future concern, as it contributes to coastal flooding and higher storms surges – issues that particularly affect those in low-lying coastal areas, where a substantial portion of the world's poor live.
- Extreme weather events could also damage critical infrastructure, even in developed countries, if steps aren't taken to strengthen it, as Hurricane Sandy's inundation of sewage systems and New York City's subway system made clear.

The report also warns that climate change could exacerbate problems, such as drought, that lead to conflicts around the world through migrations and disputes over resources. (Excerpts - from *IPCC Says Climate Change is Here, World Needs to Adapt* by Andrea Thompson 03-30-14)

(b) Observed change in average surface temperature 1901–2012



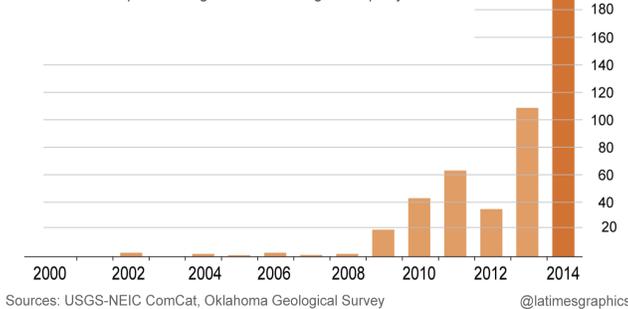
Global average surface temperature change to date in degrees Celsius. (Credit: IPCC Working Group I)

EPA to Seek 30% Cut in Carbon Emissions by 2030

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will unveil a draft proposal to cut carbon pollution from the nation's power plants 30% from 2005 levels by 2030. The proposed rule amounts to the strongest action ever taken by the U.S. government to fight climate change. Coal-fired plants are the largest source of the greenhouse gas emissions that scientists blame for trapping heat in the atmosphere and dangerously warming the planet. (from the New York Times, 06-01-14)

Earthquakes in Oklahoma

Number of earthquakes magnitude 3.0 and greater per year



USGS: 7 small earthquakes shake central Oklahoma

The U.S. Geological Survey has recorded seven small earthquakes shaking central Oklahoma in a span of about 14 hours. The temblors are part of an increase in earthquakes across Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas that some scientists say could be connected to the oil and gas drilling method known as hydraulic fracturing, and especially the wells in which the industry disposes of its wastewater. Seismologists know that hydraulic fracturing, or fracking — which involves blasting water, sand and chemicals deep into underground rock formations to free oil and gas — can cause microquakes that are rarely strong enough to register on monitoring equipment. However, fracking also generates vast amounts of wastewater, which is pumped into injection wells thousands of feet underground. Scientists wonder whether they could trigger quakes by increasing underground pressures and lubricating faults. Another concern is whether injection well operators could be pumping either too much water into the ground or pumping it at exceedingly high pressures. Austin Holland, a research seismologist with the Oklahoma Geological Survey, said at the time that the state is experiencing unprecedented earthquake activity and his agency is closely monitoring it to determine whether the earthquakes are a natural phenomenon or are man-made. Holland also said the same drilling methods have been used in the state for years but that frequent earthquakes did not become a problem until after 2009.

Values for our Ministry

FROM: The Francis Chronicles

Pope: Stop throwaway culture now before another generation is lost

Pope Francis urged economists/financiers to help reverse the current "throwaway" culture and put people at the center -- not the fringes -- of monetary strategies/policies. Children, the elderly and young adults are all being rejected "because they're not useful," he said. "Who's going to be disposed of next? Let's stop ourselves in time, please," he said. He spoke to experts at an international seminar organized by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

About 70 people, many of them leading economists, central bankers, heads of international and intergovernmental organizations and church leaders, came together July 11-12 to discuss ways economic systems and policies could work toward "a more inclusive economy" and the common good. The Pope thanked participants for meeting to discuss such important issues and urged them to reflect on the current situation "without fear and with intelligence." He said people today have been stripped of their humanity and turned into cogs of a "social, economic system, a system where inequalities rule." He likened the process to the way Italian "grappa" or brandy is made, in which grapes are distilled and transformed into something completely different. Individuals, he said, are also being run through a sort of "organizational" distillery -- transforming their original essence, making them "lose their humanity" and "become an instrument of the system."

The Pope said there is "a politics, a sociology" and a mindset of people being "disposable; you throw away what isn't needed, because man isn't at the center." Low birthrates show that children are considered disposable, as are the elderly, and also an "entire generation of young people, and this is very serious." High unemployment for young adults has created a "neither-nor" generation of young people who "neither study nor work," he said, because -- for so many -- getting a higher education isn't possible and there are no jobs. People need to be made the focus again and become "the center of society, of thinking, of reflection," he said, urging the group to study and reflect "so that man is not disposed of." That the human person should be at the center of all things, "isn't theology, it's not philosophy, it's human reality," the Pope said.

(Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service, Jul. 15, 2014, Vatican City; photo is from the internet)

How can we be more effective in our Dialogues?

Much of the daily work of corporate responsibility is participating in *dialogues with companies*. We often mention this as one of the "Tools of Good Works" for this ministry. Some thoughts on what dialogue is can cause us to reflect.

From the ***BEcause Newsletter from The peaceCENTER, Fall 2007***

We do not live in a neutral world at all, but rather, one in which the landscape is thickly settled with opinions, positions and beliefs about the right and wrong way of perceiving and interacting with the world and each other...

But dialogue is an altogether different way of talking together. Generally, we think of dialogue as "better conversation". But there is much more to it. Dialogue, as I define it, is "a conversation with a center, not sides." It is a way of taking the energy of our differences and channeling it toward something that has never been created before. It lifts us out of polarization and into a greater common sense. It is thereby a means for accessing the intelligence and coordinated power of groups of people ...

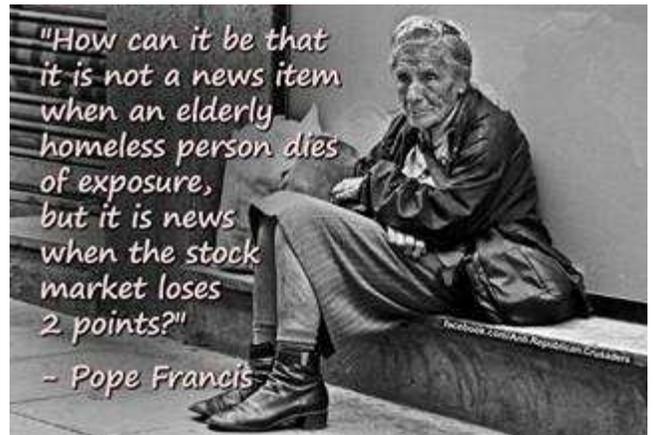
In dialogue, one not only solves problems, one *dissolves* them. We do not merely try to reach agreement, we try to create a context from which many new agreements might come. And we seek to uncover a base of shared meaning that can greatly help coordinate our actions with our values.

(From: ***Dialogue: The Art of Thinking Together***, by William Isaacs)

(concept developed by Susan Ives)

Two types of Listening: Competitive or Combative Listening Active or Reflective Listening

Which type of listening do you use most often?





Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

P.O. Box 200423
San Antonio, TX 78220

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)
- Benedictine Sisters of Virginia (Bristow, Virginia)
- St. Scholastica Monastery (Chicago, Illinois)
- Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (Clyde, Missouri)
- Benet Hill Monastery (Colorado Springs, Colorado)
- Benedictine Sisters (Erie, Pennsylvania)
- St. Scholastica Monastery (Fort Smith, Arkansas)
- Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore (Lutherville, Maryland)
- Immaculata Monastery (Norfolk, Nebraska)
- Benedictine Women Holy Wisdom Monastery (Middleton, 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 (Ferdinand, IN)
- St. Walburg Monastery (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)
- St. Paul's Monastery (St. Paul, MN)
- House of Bread (Canada)
- St. Benedict's Monastery (Japan)
- Subiaco Abbey (Subiaco, AR)
- Our Lady of Grace Monastery (Beech Grove, IN)
- Benedictine Sisters (Duluth, MN)
- Sisters of St. Benedict (Canyon, TX)
- Benedictine Sisters (Queen of Heaven)
- Benedictine Sisters (Bristow, VA)
- Mt. St. Scholastica (Atchison, KS)
- St. Scholastica's Monastery (Boerne, TX)

Supporting Individuals/ Oblates:

- Lady Ellen and Gerald Clark
- Barbara Sutherland
- Eugenia Schuler
- Rev. Victor Goertz
- Patricia Simmonds
- Robert Sosa
- Margaret Grohman
- Mary Elizabeth Weber
- Amanda Rendon
- Aloys and Gertrude Mika



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