

Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

August 2015
Issue 16

The Evolving Scene



Our corporate responsibility work continues to evolve. There have been a number of events, documents and rulings that affect our work. Some of these are the following:

Reflection/Action Materials from Pope Francis:

- ❖ Released in June, Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, lifts up the urgency of many issues our coalition speaks on. The stewardship of the Earth is **paramount** to its survival. We don't have other choices at the moment, as to our planet of residence. Recently, the some scientists mention Kepler-254b as an entity which could have similar properties as Earth but which is 1,400 light-years away. (NBC News 07-23-15)

Decision from Judge Dolly Gee on Family Detention

- ❖ In a decision handed down in May but only made public on July 25, Federal Judge Dolly Gee ruled "immigrant children arriving on the U.S. border with their mothers **should not** be detained in secure detention facilities...The ruling says the government has failed to honor a 1997 settlement agreement that governs how and when immigrant children can be detained." (New York Times, 07-27-15)

Decisions on symbols:

- ❖ On June 18, the headline in The Washington Post was: "U.S. patent office cancels (Washington Football Team's) trademark registration, says name is disparaging". (We choose not to mention the term/name.) For years, many have raised this concern about names of sports teams.
- ❖ On July 10, after 54 years of flying over the South Carolina Capitol grounds, the Confederate flag was taken down. Many did not know if this day would come in their lifetime.

Our newsletter highlights the many activities of our coalition of Benedictine Monasteries within the kaleidoscope which is the national coalition, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR). The 2015 Proxy Season is complete. The companies where our members filed resolutions are listed, along with the votes those resolutions received. One of the benefits of being in a coalition is we work together to have resolutions represented at the annual shareholder meetings all over the United States. Our members write about the meetings they attended.

We thank you for continued support of the ministry. We welcome feedback, comments and suggestions. Sr. Gabrielle Kocour told us, "...what a great newsletter March 2015 was for the responsible investment information. You do marvelous work for the cause of justice."

We know all the monasteries pray for our endeavors. We continue to stand steadfast in raising questions, using our financial power and lifting up our voices to bring about a more just world. It's a long journey and we choose it each day.



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Laudato Si — Pope Francis Speaks

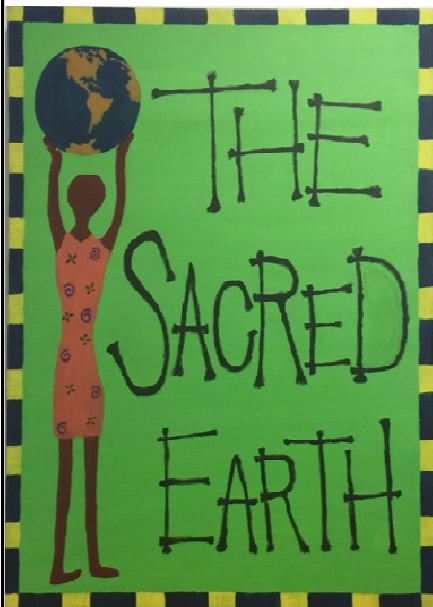
“It is my hope that this Encyclical Letter, which is now added to the body of the Church’s social teaching, can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face.” With these words, Pope Francis directs a renewed focus on creation as gift of God that must be treasured and preserved, as well as the issues of climate change, sustainability, and the seemingly unending conflict between rich and poor nations. In this encyclical, Pope Francis has woven a document that reminds each of us that this struggle of caring for the earth and all its inhabitants has deep roots in the fabric of our lives as Christians. Our Holy Father uses the words of his predecessors — and even those of the beloved saint whose name he has chosen as his own — to frame his appeal to all of Earth’s peoples that it is “our common home” and we are called to be “instruments of God for the care of creation.”

The introductory words include quotations from Pope Saint John XXIII, Blessed Pope Paul VI, Saint John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and a reference to the values of his beloved St. Francis of Assisi. The Pope writes, “I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically.” (#10) Further, the Pope states that Francis “shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.” His predecessors, too, gave witness to the lengthy struggle between technological development and the need for solutions that will impact on a global scale.

Divided into six chapters, the document addresses the issues in a calculated progression. Chapter titles include: *What is Happening to our Common Home*; *The Gospel of Creation*; *The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis*; *Integral Ecology*; *Lines of Approach and Action*; and *Ecological Education and Spirituality*. With great depth, Pope Francis outlines the present realities — pollution, climatic warming, deforestation, rising sea levels, quality and availability of water, loss of biodiversity (rise in endangered and extinct species), the toxicity surrounding the mining of precious metals, the power and might of multinationals, and the disregard of how these issues impact the poor. Yet, through this litany of our disregard for the world we have been given, the Pope consistently and repeatedly calls us to dialogue and discern a pathway to real solutions, to a renewed vision that goes beyond our comfort zone, and to an action plan that recognizes that “peace, justice and the preservation of creation are three absolutely interconnected themes...” (#92)

A few quotes from the Pope’s encyclical help remind us of our Benedictine roots and our calling to work for justice and peace:

- ✧ “The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all.” (#23)
- ✧ “Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.” (#33)
- ✧ “Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” (#49)



- ✧ “If we are truly concerned to develop an ecology capable of remedying the damage we have done, no branch of the sciences and no form of wisdom can be left out, and that includes religion and the language particular to it.” (#63)
- ✧ “The creation accounts in the book of Genesis contain, in their own symbolic and narrative language, profound teachings about human existence and its historical reality. They suggest that human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself.” (#66)
- ✧ “...through Noah, who remained innocent and just, God decided to open a path of salvation. In this way he gave humanity the chance of a new beginning. All it takes is one good person to restore hope!” (#71)
- ✧ “We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.” (#139)

Our Members Respond

SOME REFLECTIONS ON OUR CARE OF CREATION

Patricia Henry, O.S.B.

Monasterio De San Benito, Mexico

I have learned to love chapter 32 of the Rule of Benedict about the tools and goods of the monastery. For me, it is an invitation to treat *all of creation* as sacred vessels of the altar....

Charity grows as we consider the next person who will use the broom or the computer, or the printer. In our monastery each of us needs to consider the next person when she takes a shower, waters the cactus or washes a load of clothes.

Charity and justice will also increase when we consider future generations as we care for our common home. Being mindful helps us to avoid carelessness. If we are distracted, over-active or absorbed with feelings of anger, envy etc. we tend to lose our sense of reverence for God's creation: nature, things, our work, and those around us. The way we treat things usually is a sign of our interior attitude and tells us something about the way we feel about ourselves.

Benedict has as much to say about order, cleanliness and careful management as he does about *lectio* and liturgy. The Rule of Benedict shows concern for the care of the earth, the integration of prayer and work, of body and spirit, as essential tasks on our journey to fullness of life in God.

In his recent encyclical, Pope Francis highlights this "revolutionary" contribution of the Rule:

LaudatoSi. We can also look to the great tradition of monasticism. Originally, it was a kind of flight from the world, an escape from the decadence of the cities. The monks sought the desert, convinced that it was the best place for encountering the presence of God. Later, Saint Benedict of Norcia proposed that his monks live in community, combining prayer and spiritual reading with manual labour (ora et labora). Seeing manual labour as spiritually meaningful proved revolutionary. Personal growth and sanctification came to be sought in the interplay of recollection and work. This way of experiencing work makes us more protective and respectful of the environment; it imbues our relationship to the world with a healthy sobriety (#126).

Here, I believe is the key to our Benedictine approach to care of creation. How strange it is that even as science has made it possible for us to gaze in wonder on the earth, economics has led us to ravage it. This is a sign of our times, and as women and men of faith, we need to ask ourselves how we are responding to the challenges it presents. We can begin by realizing that respect for life extends to the Earth.



Our holy founder Benedict tells us: "When beginning any good work, beg of God with most earnest prayer to perfect it." Thus, it strikes me what a wonderfully Benedictine opening Pope Francis uses for his first encyclical letter: "Praise Be to You!" We know the phrase is borrowed from the Canticle of St. Francis, his patron, who was also influenced by Benedictines in his life. Pope Francis addresses a universal audience with his plea to protect the future of the present generation and its offspring. His letter is solidly based on scientific research. What continues to amaze me is that his critics do not fault his findings. He is criticized for the most part for sticking his nose in and commenting on matters (according to them) that are none of his business — saying that — as pontiff, and leader of a world-wide religious community, he should stick to religion.

It seems folks are quaking in their boots because Francis points out that all humanity has a moral responsibility to care for the very first gift God gave at creation: the planet Earth. Take time to read, more than once, this very long, but loving letter, penned by a kind, gentle, compassionate pastor. Let us be grateful for this voice raised with a focus on the lowly of the earth. Heed his invitation to join in discussions and pray for insights on how best to protect the gift of Earth. We also pray for softening of hearts of those who, because they do not understand or accept the facts, resort to rejection of the "voice crying in the wilderness."

S. Roberta Bailey, O.S.B.

Prioress, Benedictine Sisters of FL

2015 Shareholder Resolutions

These are the results of the resolutions filed by CRI members in 2015:

AMERICAN EXPRESS — 21.55%

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore-Emmanuel Monastery
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

APPLE COMPUTER

Link Executive Compensation to Compliance Metrics — Challenged at SEC

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure withdrawn –Apple will do report on expenditures

Congregation of Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas

CAPITAL ONE FINANCIAL — withdrawn

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure

Benedictine Sisters - Mount St. Scholastica

CATERPILLAR — won at SEC

Human Rights-Amend & Monitor Policy

Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters Virginia

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY — withdrawn, hired staff person with environmental expertise

Director with Environmental Expertise- Fracking

Benedictine Sisters - Mount St. Scholastica

CHEVRON

Adopt Quantitative GHG Reduction Targets — 9.0%

Benedictine Sisters - Mount St. Scholastica

Quantitative Risk Management: Shale Energy Operations — 27.0%

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore - Emmanuel Monastery
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia
Congregation of Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas

COMCAST — 15.7%

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure

Benedictine Sisters - Mount St. Scholastica

CONOCOPHILLIPS —Withdrawn—will dialogue

Risks Associated With Rail Transportation of Crude Oil

Benedictine Sisters - Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — 26.8%

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore-Emmanuel Monastery

DOW CHEMICAL — Withdrawn

Herbicide-Resistant Seeds & Grower Compliance

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

DuPONT — less than 6% of the vote

Herbicide-Resistant Seeds & Grower Compliance

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore-Emmanuel Monastery
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

EBAY — Withdrawn

Board Diversity

Benedictine Sisters - Mount St. Scholastica

EXXON MOBIL

Adopt Quantitative Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets — 9.6%

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore-Emmanuel Monastery

Director with Environmental Expertise-Fracking — 21.0%

Benedictine Sisters - Mount St. Scholastica

Risk Associated with Rail Transportation of Crude Oil — Withdrawn - will dialogue

Benedictine Sisters Charitable Trust, Boerne, Texas

GILEAD SCIENCES — 30.9%

Sustainability reporting

Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica

GOOGLE, INC — 9.57%

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure

Benedictine Sisters, of Baltimore-Emmanuel Monastery
Benedictine Sisters - Mount St. Scholastica

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORP. (IBM)

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — 22.44%

Benedictine Sisters Charitable Trust, Boerne, Texas
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

MCDONALD'S — Withdrawn—adopted new policy

Non-Therapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Animals —

Congregation of Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM — 29.43%

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure

Benedictine Sisters - Mount St. Scholastica

SOUTHERN Company — 22.0%

Adopt Quantitative Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets

Benedictine Sisters Charitable Trust, Boerne, Texas

TIME WARNER

Policy to Monitor Smoking in Movies 2.8%

Benedictine Sisters - Mount St. Scholastica

VALERO ENERGY — 39.61%

Adopt Quantitative Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets

Benedictine Sisters Charitable Trust, Boerne, Texas

WALGREENS — 5.70%

Link Executive Compensation to Sustainability Performance

Benedictine Sisters - Mount St. Scholastica



Stockholder Meeting Reports

CATERPILLAR Shareholder Meeting

Sisters Rose Marie Stallbaumer and Barbara McCracken attended the Caterpillar stockholder meeting in Wamego, Kansas, on June 10. Caterpillar has a work tools plant in the small town, located about two and a half hours from Kansas City. It's an out-of-the-way location for most shareholders who attended—near no airport.

Sister Rose Marie presented a Global Standards resolution, co-sponsored by Mount St. Scholastica, Mercy Investment Services and 11 other filers. The resolution asked that Caterpillar, which does business in 21 countries, extend its policy to protect human rights, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other internationally recognized standards

Sr. Rose Marie provided shareholders, members of the board of directors and employees with two reasons why Caterpillar needs to develop a better Human Rights policy: 1) Caterpillar has operations in Gaza and the Palestinian territories in violation of international law and UN norms on the responsibilities of transnational corporations with regard to human rights; 2) Caterpillar's two major facilities in Nuevo Laredo pay workers earn less than \$10 a day. Sr. Barbara presented two governance resolutions — that the chair of the board of directors be an independent member of the Board and that stockholders be given the right to act by written consent so that shareholders can raise important matters outside the normal annual meeting process.

Following the 30-minute meeting that allowed **no opportunity** for questions or dialogue, CEO Douglas Oberhelman invited the 125 employees and 50 shareholders to mingle and visit with board members. Sisters Barbara and Rose Marie expressed their human rights concerns to a couple of board members and the CEO, who assured them that Caterpillar is coming out with a new human rights policy in August. Sr. Rose Marie asked him to develop the policy using the Global Corporate Responsibility Benchmarks approved by 22 nations, while Sr. Barbara reminded him of the power he has as CEO of a large corporation to use his power for the good of others. They received no assurances from him, but they assured him of their prayers.

The two sisters and other attendees toured the Wamego Work Tools plant. Sr. Rose Marie couldn't help wondering how the safety of the two plants in Nuevo Laredo compared to this well-managed plant. A tour highlight was the opportunity to see a 3-D printer that makes a number of plastic parts for Caterpillar. The employee who helped to adapt the 3-D printer for Caterpillar's use reported that they hope to be able to make metal parts for Caterpillar before long. *Sr. Rose Marie Stallbaumer, OSB — Atchison*



BOEING COMPANY SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING

On April 27, 2015, I attended the meeting of the Boeing Company shareholders at the Field Museum in Chicago. In addition to votes on the members of the board of directors and on the appointment of the auditing company, a stunningly high compensation package (ranging from \$7 million to \$23 million annually) for Boeing's executive officers was approved with a shareholder vote of 92%. Four additional resolutions, none of which was endorsed by the company or passed by shareholders, received a substantial minority of votes.

The resolution on lobbying activities asked for more information to be disclosed to shareholders, specifically company policies and procedures governing lobbying, lobbying, payments, and the decision-making process governing these. Presented by a member of the Sisters of St. Agnes representing ICCR, this resolution received 17% of the shareholders' votes. The resolution on strengthening the recovery of compensation, benefits, and/or bonuses from company officials when misconduct on their part has been discovered (clawback policy) received a 22% vote.

At the time of the shareholders' meeting and for some time before that the chairman of Boeing's board of directors was also the CEO of the company. One resolution called for the board chairman to be separate and independent of the CEO. This resolution received 31% of the shareholders' votes.

I was impressed by the quality of the presentations in favor of the resolutions and by the substantial, albeit non-majority, of votes cast for them by shareholders. *Mary Ann O'Ryan, OSB — Chicago*

Member Updates

McDONALD'S SHAREHOLDER MEETING – May 21, 2015 in Oak Brook, Illinois

Background: The Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas filed a 2015 resolution with McDonald's asking that they update their 2003 Global Policy on Antibiotic Use in food animals. The company published an updated version of the policy in March, stating that the company would only be "sourcing chicken raised without antibiotics that are important to human medicine". Due to the historic nature of this announcement, the Sisters withdrew the resolution.

On May 21st, Sr. Mary Ann O'Ryan OSB and Sr. Susan Mika OSB left at 6:15am to drive to the McDonald's annual shareholder meeting. Fearing more protests (thousands protested on May 20th outside the company's headquarters, asking for a \$15 minimum wage for fast-food workers), there were numerous police at the entrance, checking our paperwork to attend the shareholders' meeting. We parked and walked a ways to the check-in table. The person lacked the page that had Sr. Susan's name on it. After 15 minutes, the security guard took a number of people whose names were on Page 7 to a sheltered area. The day was quite cold and rainy with a blustery wind coming off the lake which is part of the headquarters. Page 7 was finally found and all processed into The Lodge Hotel, only to get in another line to get a badge to wear. Breakfast was next – some McCafé coffee, a chocolate chip cookie and some apples from the Happy Meal. This seemed very skimpy on the part of this mega-company. Everyone who had a question was handed a small paper to write our name, affiliation and the question – many questions were handed in!

The Lodge Meeting Room held very few people (maybe 200) – everyone had to have the paperwork necessary to get in. The new CEO (since March), Steve Easterbrook, started the meeting, presenting reports and power points of some of the past year's achievements, and talking about ways to improve McDonald's. There were six shareholder proposals voted on – each proponent was allowed 2 minutes to present points. During the question-and-answer period, the CEO picked the questions with each person limited to one minute. He was determined that the meeting last one hour. Sr. Susan thanked McDonald's for deciding to remove antibiotics used for humans from the chicken supply chain. She asked when these antibiotics would be phased out from the pork and beef supply chain. The CEO did not answer directly but said that transitions are required and that McDonald's had made a good purposeful statement of intent. *Sr. Susan Mika OSB –Boerne*



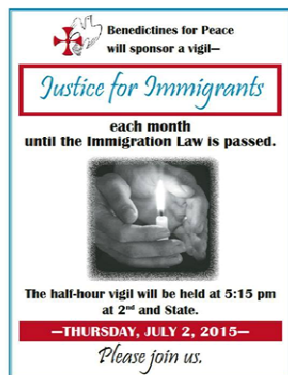
*Sr. Mary Ann and Sr. Susan hold documents for the McDonald's meeting.
Photo by Nicole Sotelo*

HELPING ASYLUM-SEEKERS — Alternatives to Detention

Two community-based programs for those seeking asylum were among those highlighted in the most recent **GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT**, a project of the **National Catholic Reporter**. Written by Nuri Vallbona, the July 21st article showcases Casa Marianella in Austin, Texas. The Casa is a "hospitality house that provides services to enable people to move on to the next step..." It offered shelter to Hilda Ramirez, unexpectedly released from the Karnes City Detention facility, and forced to wear an ankle monitor as an alternative to detention. These monitors must be charged twice a day for two hours, leaving little time for living a normal life.

The **Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore** were mentioned as providing housing for the Asylee Women Enterprise, a non-profit that works to match asylum seekers with congregations of women religious. Nuri Vallbone stressed that the Sisters' role is crucial to the process because the Sisters "know how to live in community." In addition, women and children refugees fill some of the monastery's vacant rooms. In describing the partnership with the Benedictine Sisters, Asylee director Molly Corbett said, "It brings so much life to the convent or monastery. It's a win-win."

Member Updates



The Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Pennsylvania, continue to pray for the special needs of our world, our nation, and our communities. In July, the community held its monthly prayer vigil to seek justice for immigrants. The Sisters have made a commitment to pray for those impacted by their journey to another country.

In addition, a **Benedictines for Peace Vigil** was held at the monastery on July 6 to raise awareness of the potential dangers of crude oil trains traveling in heavily populated areas. Some of the religious groups raised this concern with a number of companies during the 2015 Proxy Season.

On April 11, the Benedictine Sisters of Boerne broke ground on their new, energy-efficient monastery. A special moment of the celebration included the pouring of soil from the land of each of the community's Texas monasteries into the freshly broken ground. This blending of soils symbolically linked the places of ministry of the community's past with the faith journeys that are yet to come.

With this new monastery, the Sisters have made a commitment toward sustainability in the design and construction process. Solar panels will provide for a portion of the building's electrical needs.



An article in the March 2015 issue of this newsletter presented information about the November 13, 2014, national conference entitled, "**Entering the Transforming Future: Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Ministry in the Coming Age of Religious Life.**" It was designed to establish a network for collaboration, shared prayer, education and action.

We are proud to report Sr. Deana Case of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters in Norfolk, Nebraska, has been selected as Chair of the newly titled group - Justice Conference of Women Religious (JCWR). Thanks to Sr. Deana for being in a leadership role of such an important endeavor.



Pope Francis' ecology encyclical, "Laudato Si", is surely reflective of Benedictine stewardship. The premise that care for the earth affects us all is so timely and true. When we don't care for the earth we are not caring for others. Impoverished nations in least developed countries experience the worst impacts of climate change, i.e., food insecurity, floods & super storms. We can build peace by reducing resource-driven conflicts. Let us, as individuals, communities, and a nation do what we can NOW.

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida have a new way to witness to stewardship and, as our Corporate Commitment states, "feed hungers." We are now using **Aquaponics** — the integration of animal and plant culture, i.e., waste generated by fish is changed into nutrients which then flow through a series of pipes to vegetable roots set to grow in water not soil. Tilapia is the fish we raise; all sorts of vegetables are what we grow.

Aquaponics uses natural biological cycles to grow safe, chemical-free food. It helps us grow healthy food for our table and educate others to use creation efficiently and responsibly.

Sr. Mary David Hydro, OSB—St. Leo's

ICCR Annual General Meeting

During the first week of June 2015, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) held its annual general meeting in San Antonio. The local coalition, the Socially Responsible Investment Coalition, hosted the meeting. There were many sessions, panels and activities during the conference.

- ◇ One group went to Laredo/Nuevo Laredo to visit maquiladora (factory) workers, community leaders, various persons impacted by what is happening at the U.S./Mexico border. (This area is about 3 hours from San Antonio.)
- ◇ Two groups visited the Eagle Ford Shale area to see the impact of hydraulic fracturing on the land, the community and the area's economy. (This area is about 1 ½ hours from San Antonio.)
- ◇ An Interfaith Service brought together a number of religious traditions – to celebrate life and our part as caring for the earth. The outdoor setting featured trees that were probably a century old. The reflections inspired us and highlighted how we can make a difference.
- ◇ The large group sessions featured evaluations and input on multiple topics including: climate change strategies, human trafficking concerns, water issues, food concerns, fracking practices, political spending/lobbying, health concerns – both domestic and global, financial practices of the major banks and an update on various companies.
- ◇ Other smaller sessions included meetings with Valero (based in San Antonio) and with Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) which operates the family detention center in Dilley, Texas. The group owning CCA shares visited the center the next day (about 1 ½ hours from San Antonio).
- ◇ The group ended the meetings with a trip to the San Antonio RiverWalk and a meal at Mi Tierra Restaurant.



Corporate Changes in Food Policies

Company	Ingredient Changes
	-CEO has announced that Panera will be removing 150 of their ingredients. Panera has created a "No No List" which contains all of the ingredients that will be removed.
	-Tyson plans to eliminate the usage of human antibiotics in their chicken by September 2017.
	-In a recent article by Entrepreneur they mention that, "McDonald's is making a change by only sourcing chicken raised with minimal antibiotics and milk from cows that have not been treated with artificial growth hormones rbST. -Farmers that provide chicken will be allow to use ionophores which is a type of antibiotic not used on humans."
	-Became the first fast-food chain to use beef from cows raised with no antibiotics, steroids or hormones.
	-In the next five years, Chick-fil-A will be switching nationwide to chicken raised without antibiotics.
	-Will no longer use artificial colors and flavors, high-fructose corn syrup and unsustainable palm oil by the end of 2015. Artificial preservatives will be removed where possible by 2017.
	-Will no longer use artificial colors and flavors as of July 2015 and will list all ingredients when changes are complete.
	-Announced that they will remove their artificial flavor and color by 2017. Now, cereals like Trix and Reese's Puffs will be made with fruit and vegetable juices and natural vanilla. - As of 2015, 60% of GM cereals do not have artificial ingredients. By the end of 2016, GM hopes to have 90% of their cereal portfolio artificial ingredient free and 100% by the end of 2017.
	-According to a 2012 San Antonio Express News article, "Burger King became the first U.S. fast-food chain to pledge that all their eggs and pork will come from cage-free chickens and pigs by 2017."
	-In a recent Q&A, the makers of Cheerios state that their Original Cheerios do not contain any GMOs. However, other varieties of Cheerios do contain GMOs since they use other grains like corn, which might be grown from GM seeds. -An Interesting fact is that General Mills manufactures all flavors of Cheerios without GMOs in Europe. However, if some Cheerios are manufactured in North America and sold in Europe, they will label the product as "likely containing GMO's."
	-Chipotle will start serving food only with non-GMO ingredients.

IMMIGRANT FAMILY DETENTION UPDATE

South Texas Family Detention Centers - Karnes and Dilley



FAMILY DETENTION REALITIES

- 68,445 family members apprehended at SW Border in FY 2014
- 361% increase in arriving families from FY 2013
- Most detainees are women and their young children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras
- \$342.73 per family/per night funding as appropriated in U.S. Congressional FY16 budget
- FY 2016 budget allocates \$712.936 million to Custody Operations for salaries and benefits and another \$1,694 billion for general expenses to fund 28,910 adult detention beds
- Average age of detained children at the (now-closed) Artesia facility was 6½ years

RATIONAL GIVEN FOR DETENTION of Mothers and Children

- Deterrent for future immigrant border crossings
- Ensure appearances at immigration court proceedings
- Protect legal resident community from security threats

On July 24, 2015, Judge Dolly Gee of the Central District of California ruled that current U.S. family detention policies violate a 1997 legal settlement known as the Flores Settlement. The Flores Settlement set the standards to be used by the U.S. government regarding the detention, release, and treatment of all children in immigration detention. To comply with Judge Gee's order, the government **must reverse the family detention policies and dismantle the facilities** it instituted last year, and release from detention accompanied children together with their parents. On August 6th, the Administration asked the Judge to rescind her decision.

If you want to help, the Interfaith Welcome Coalition is providing backpacks for those who are released. You can go to this website and purchase items which will be sent to the church which is preparing them. Recently, in two weeks, 300 persons were served. **NEEDS** <http://www.myregistry.com//visitors/?registryId=850453>

If you can help with a donation, please make the check to:

University Presbyterian Church, 300 Bushnell Ave, San Antonio, TX 78212. List it for the Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC). It will be used for rent, food and the needs of the immigrants as they travel. When the mothers and children are released, they have little, except what they are wearing.

Please call the White House 202-456-1111 with message: End Family Detention

Photos Sr. Susan Mika — Prayer Gathering in the rain in ditch outside the Dilley Detention Facility 04-22-15



More Information



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST COALITION MEMBER

Sacred Heart Monastery

Lisle, Illinois

The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery will join. We have joined with other Religious in our area ... and attended shareholder meetings with voter rights to challenge the unjust activities of various corporate agencies.

We look forward to working with (BCRI) for a just, sustainable future.

Sr. Karen Nykiel, Peace and Justice Coordinator

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

The Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

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

Members of the Benedictine CRI work to influence corporate practices on issues relating to basic human rights. Eighteen monasteries now comprise the Coalition. For further information about the coalition's work, please complete the following and mail it to the coalition at the address above. We are grateful for the staff: Sr. Susan Mika OSB, Vanessa Lopez and Linda Murphy.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE: _____ E-MAIL _____
MONASTERY (or other affiliation) _____

Specific Question or Area of Interest? _____



CORT Region 13 Meeting

Region 13 of the Conference of Religious Treasurers met in Colorado Springs on April 27-28, 2015. The treasurers invited Sr. Susan Mika to give a day-long presentation on corporate responsibility. The Benet Hill Benedictines graciously hosted the meeting. Sr. MT Summers, Sr. Jan Futrell, Sr. Rose Marie Stallbaumer, Sr. Barbara McCracken, Sr. Valerie Stark and Sr. Wilmarie attended the conference.

Sr. Susan asked the group which topics were most pressing to their work. She wove Kohlberg's Moral Stages of Development into how our groups make decisions to contrast how many ways there are to decide what is the "just" or "common good" aspect of decision-making.

The Mission of the Benedictine CRI

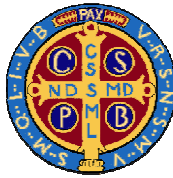
Recognizing the directive from the Rule of St. Benedict that distribution should be made to each according to need, the Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment works to build a world in which corporate policies and practices reflect just and equitable distribution of resources for the common good.



2015 Meeting Dates

**ICCR- September 28-October 2
in New York City*

** RCRI: October 27-30 in
Orlando, Florida*



Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

P.O. Box 200423 San Antonio, TX 78220

**We give heartfelt thanks to our generous donors. This work
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- **Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont**
(Weston, VT)

Supporting Individuals/ Oblates:

- Region 13 CORT
- Eugenia Schuler
- Rev. Victor Goertz
- Patricia and Billy Simmonds
- Monika Freyman and Miguel Herrera
- Margaret Grohman
- Mary Elizabeth Weber
- LTC Henry and Amanda Rendon
- Aloys and Gertrude Mika
- Lady Ellen and Gerald Clark