

# Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

March 2017 — Issue 19

## A Step Along the Way of Long-Term Struggles

Corporate accountability is a huge responsibility. In every age, we ask ourselves questions about what we should promote, what we should avoid, what we could do if everything were perfect. Of course, our world is not a perfect one.

For Lent, Pope Francis in his message to us, says, “Each life we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable.” He was talking about the parable of the rich man and Lazarus the beggar. “Money can come to dominate us, even to the point of becoming a tyrannical idol. Instead of being an instrument at our service for doing good and showing solidarity towards others, money can chain us and the entire world to a selfish logic that leaves no room for love and hinders peace.”

Some of the articles in our Benedictine CRI newsletter try to show how we are living out what we believe is our calling with regard to our monies/finances and the struggle we have in our every day monastic lives to live the Gospel and its values.

The Pope has convened meetings at the Vatican to look at Capitalism 2.0 – to envision beyond where we are now with our thinking and our methods. One question is “Where does our money sleep?” We know that money is used 24/7 by our financial institutions to trade, finance, influence. For the issues—there is a question of who benefits and who pays. The details of health care, immigration and trade are on the front burner these days in a way that we have not seen in a while. Every day there are news articles and discussion of what underpins these areas of our economy.

- ✿ In the health care debate, who will be covered? Who will not be covered? What will the costs be to the persons, to our health institutions, to the corporations involved, to our society?
- ✿ In the immigration debate, what will the consequences be for the federal government, for the corporations involved in the detention of immigrants, for farmers/those needing seasonal workers, for the persons involved — DACA, DAPA, asylum seekers?
- ✿ In the trade debate, what are the consequences in a renegotiated North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)? Who are the winners and who are the losers in all of these debates?
- ✿ There are many other issues — nuclear weapon capacity, military build-up, fracking, climate change, fuel standards for vehicles — to name a few, where shareholders have worked for many decades to make a difference. Who benefits?

Some reflective musings as we read the newsletter:

- ✿ What questions do I see on which I personally need to stretch my ideas or knowledge?
- ✿ What questions do I see on which our monastery needs to stretch its ideas or knowledge?
- ✿ What touches my heart and soul? What motivates me? Our monasteries?
- ✿ What can and will I do — starting with one idea, one action, one change?

### What can we do together?

*We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.*

**Archbishop Oscar Romero**

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# Benedictines at Work - CRI Meeting

The **annual meeting of the Benedictine CRI** was held Thursday, October 13, 2016 from 7:30–8:45 a.m. at the RCRI national conference in Anaheim. Sister Rose Marie of Atchison opened the meeting and welcomed the group. She then invited Sister Rosanne Zastoupil to lead the opening prayer, a prayer for our upcoming national elections. Sister Rose Marie announced that Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama, has joined our Benedictine CRI group. Subiaco Abbey in Arkansas did not renew its membership, leaving our membership (as of October 13, 2016) at 19 members.

**Financial Report** — Sr. Rose Marie reviewed the financial report for the BCRI office, pointing out the small stipend for the many hours of work Sister Susan Mika puts into corporate responsibility and shareholder action work. Members and non-members were encouraged to consider supporting her work through community donations and grant writing.

**Update on Corporate Responsibility Actions** — Sr. Susan shared a packet of information, including articles related to the CRI work, reviewed the calendar for filing shareholder resolutions (mostly in November and December), and briefly spoke about the work of ICCR and the shareholder resolutions process, sharing an ExxonMobil filing packet as an example of how the work is done.

**Climate Change/Energy** — Climate change issues are front and center of our national news and shareholder concerns. Susan shared several articles related to this topic. Many are discerning whether to divest their fossil fuels shares or hold them to be active in filing resolutions. Others are researching investment in clean energy companies.

**Fracking** — This continues to be a problem in states with much drilling. Recently, the state of Oklahoma shut down 37 disposal wells, used to put waste water back into the earth, following a 5.6 earthquake in Pawnee, Oklahoma. At the Osage Nation, OK, 17 more wells were shut down immediately. Sr. Susan noted that Apache Corporation is currently doing studies to improve the fracking process and reduce the risk of environmental impacts.

**Food, Water, and Restaurant Antibiotics** — The effort to remove antibiotics used by humans from our food is another big focus of shareholder work. Consumer /shareholder pressure continues with McDonald's and Darden Restaurants, the owner of Olive Garden. Water issues, primarily disclosing water risks in the supply chain, are a strong focus for ICCR.

**Banking practices** — John Stumpf, the CEO of Wells Fargo, resigned just this week as a result of the disclosure by bank employees of undue pressure on employees to open new bank accounts and the bank's fraudulent charging of fees for products sold without authorization. These practices will be challenged.

**No Fees Campaign** — Another effort of ICCR members is to stop companies from charging fees to bring in foreign workers to work in the U.S. or to work in factories abroad. Some companies are even holding passports and charging fees to these workers. ICCR dialogue is focused on companies adopting ethical recruitment policies in their supply chains.

**Two Big Victories: Walmart/Johnson & Johnson** — Sr. Susan gave an update on the ongoing work with Walmart. Walmart is currently phasing out 8 to 10 chemicals that suppliers must remove from their products, a big step forward. Johnson & Johnson is phasing out parabens (possible hormone disruptors) in some products, but continues to sell a number of other baby products containing parabens. Walmart has also raised their minimum wage to \$9/hour, promising to raise it to \$10 next year. Sr. Susan encouraged the group to thank these companies for taking these steps.

**The Human Thread Campaign** — Members were encouraged to send postcards to Macy's and Kohl's before Friday, November 25, in support of a living wage at the sites where our clothes are made. The post cards encourage the companies to sell fair-trade clothing items made in third-world countries — rather than the many products from these countries made by "slave labor," where workers are not being paid a living wage.

**Other Topics of Interest** — The Sisters in Atchison have a policy of fossil fuel divestment while holding enough stock in certain companies to be able to file shareholder resolutions. Sr. Rose Marie reported that their divestment has had **no negative impact** on overall investment earnings, offering to share their policy with anyone interested. Sr. Susan shared the Boerne community's work with Texas attorneys to make South Texas family detention centers in Karnes and Dilley meet the regulations for child care centers, since women and children are these centers' detainees.

Sr. Susan distributed a list of products which she encouraged us to avoid purchasing because of the possible health effects until various ingredients are removed.



Sr. Susan invited the group to submit information on any projects they have taken on with any of these issues or corporations in their local communities.

Sr. Susan made available the "Mend the Gap" postcards provided by Network's Nuns on the Bus campaign, as well as Network brochures on national and state candidates.

(Minutes continued on bottom of page 3)

## Attendees

**St. Scholastica Monastery, Boerne, TX**  
Sylvia Ahr, OSB, treasurer  
Susan Mika, OSB

**Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS**  
Rose Marie Stallbaumer, OSB, treasurer  
(also representing **Monasterio Pan de Vida**, Torreon, MX)  
Lou Whipple, OSB, business manager

**St. Benedict Monastery – Benedictine Sisters of Virginia, Bristow, VA**  
Mary Finnigan, COO  
Andrea Westkamp, OSB

**Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, IL**  
Mary Ann O'Ryan, OSB  
Roberta Bieganowski, Finance Officer

**Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration**  
Valerie Stark, OSB, treasurer

**Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL**  
Tonette Sperando, OSB, prioress  
Sherrie L. Brainard, OSB, treasurer

**Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart, Lisle, IL**  
Helen Jilek, OSB, treasurer

**St. Walburga Monastery of Elizabeth, NJ**  
Marlene Milasus, OSB, treasurer

**Monastery of St. Gertrude**  
Janet Marie Barnard, OSB, treasurer

**St. Mary Monastery**  
Jennifer Carber, finance director

**Our Lady of Grace Monastery of Beech Grove**  
Maureen T Conney, OSB, treasurer

**St. Paul's Monastery of St. Paul, MN**  
Catherine Nehotte, OSB, treasurer

**Benedictine Sisters of the Annunciation**  
Rosanne Zastoupil, OSB, treasurer

**St. Benedict Monastery**  
Sr. M. Michael Mack, OSB, treasurer  
Karen Brink, OSB, prioress

**Sacred Heart Monastery**  
Mary Kay Panowicz, OSB, treasurer  
Denette Leifeld, OSB, accountant

**Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth**  
Jean Panisko, SCL, treasurer

# Economics and Catholic Social Teaching

## Business Leaders as Agents of Economic and Social Inclusion

Excerpts from a presentation by Rev. Seamus Finn, OMI in Rome, November 17, 2016



**CST, Finance and Commerce** First, I want to offer some perspectives on the interaction of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) with the worlds of finance and commerce. CST has in its historical evolution presented a sustained consistent analysis, critique and affirmation of the various types of financial and commercial transactions that came into existence over the centuries... The actors, actions and themes examined included the roles and responsibilities of owners and customers and buyers; borrowers and lenders; the obligations of debtors and the appropriateness of interest rates; the responsibility to the norms of justice and the call to charity that the faith demands. In recent decades CST has been challenged to go into a deeper analysis of how the principles of CST that we are all very familiar with: solidarity, subsidiarity, participation and care for creation should be applied in the financial and commercial transactions and activities practiced today. Historically the debate in the tradition was often about the roles and responsibilities of the church in teaching and admonishing and of the state in governing and regulating the numerous issues and sectors that impacted society. Today the private sector ... has come to occupy its rightful place at the table of debate and action about all the issues that societies encounter.

Since the Second Vatican Council, the church and the faithful have grown into a deeper awareness of themselves as actors in society and as contributors to the search for constructive responses to the challenges that societies face. In recent decades through the intervention of successive popes there has been a profound awakening in the church to the interdependent status that all creatures share in a finite planet. Finally Pope Francis in the apostolic exhortation "*Evangelii Gaudium*" and the encyclical "*Laudato Si'*" has reiterated the teaching of the tradition and stated in 2013 that there is a need "to allow gospel principles to permeate the Church's financial and economic activities, too." This is consistent with the ... explicit challenge offered by Justice in the World in 1971 (no. 40); "While the Church is bound to give witness to justice, she recognizes that anyone who ventures to speak to people about justice must first be just in their eyes. Hence we must undertake an examination of the modes of acting and of the possessions and life style found within the Church herself." Externally the unfolding process of globalization has left its mark everywhere... The technological innovations that have facilitated much of globalization's reach and inclusion is pervasive in even the remotest regions of the planet.

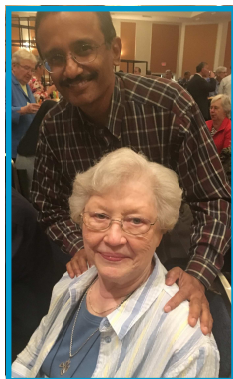
**Impact Investing** Two conferences on Impact Investing jointly sponsored with the Pontifical Council in 2014 & 2016 broke new ground in the church's engagement with capitalism and went beyond the conventional approaches to socially responsible investing and corporate social responsibility. In many ways, they were an effort to respond to the well-publicized critiques of capitalism that Pope Francis has offered and his call for a financial system that is **inclusive**, that cares for the environment and takes seriously our responsibility to future generations. These conferences demonstrated how impact investing was consistent with CST, how individual and institutional investors were working to align the deployment of their assets to support positive social and environmental impacts and to consider the tools and approaches that were needed to achieve those objectives. Both of these events were, I think, consistent with the traditional role that the church has played when it seeks to create a space where new initiatives that show promise in responding to the evolving needs of communities can be incubated.

**Capitalism 2.0** It is within this context that Pope Francis is inviting all of us to participate in the promotion of a Capitalism 2.0 that leaves behind the approaches and activities that fail to take into account the negative social and environmental consequences of their actions and whose only priority is profit and power. The institutions and companies in a Capitalism 2.0 must be willing to ask difficult questions such as: What and how is your activity, product or service contributing to the common good? Also, starting with those who seek to invest in a manner that is consistent with their faith and therefore CST must ask [investors]: **Where does your money sleep? And while you are sleeping what is your money being used to finance?** In a Capitalism envisioned by CST and Pope Francis, we might further ask: What kinds of banks, companies, investors and institutions do we need in CAP 2? What kinds of regulations and supervision and transparency do we need across all the multiple jurisdictions that are responsible for assuring the stability and liquidity of the financial system and the reliability of the major institutions that operate in the system.

**Consistent with Faith and with the Tradition** As we seek to better align our business operations and our financial transactions with CST, we are being invited to consider how we are positively contributing value all along our operations and for investors — where and what do we want to invest in. The global impact investing network has identified 10 areas like sustainable agriculture, affordable and accessible housing, healthcare and clean technology that are easily identifiable but all business operations have impacts. In seeking to decrease negative social and environmental impacts they cause and increase their positive contributions, business leaders in all sectors can be agents of economic and social inclusion, embracing the ecological dimension [of] their vocation to care for our common home.



**Above**—Sr. Susan Mika, Sr. Benita Coffey and Sr. Anne McCarthy at Justice Promoters Gathering in Chicago in March



**Right**—Ravi Thiagarajan and Sr. Regina from Fort Smith monastery at RCRI

### Continued—Minutes from CRI Meeting:

The article, "Aligning Money and Mission: The Pope Francis Approach," written by Rev. Seamus Finn, of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate was recommended for possible use with community finance committees.

On the issue of gun control, Sr. Susan provided some information requested by Sr. Andrea Westkamp. Sister Judy Byron, OP, is leading group work on gun violence. She encouraged groups to purchase stock in Sturm Ruger, Smith & Wesson, Dick's Sporting Goods, or Walmart. As a reminder, the communities must own the stock for one year before a resolution can be filed.

*Minutes submitted by Rose Marie Stallbaumer*





# ICCR 2017 Proxy Season



For the 2017 Proxy Season, members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) filed 283 resolutions with 165 companies. Resolutions by topic included these filings:

Climate Change	66	Food Issues	21
Lobby/Political Contributions	48	Human Rights/Trafficking	19
Inclusiveness/Diversity	46	Health Issues/Pharmaceuticals	18
Corporate Governance	25	Water Issues	16
Environment/Sustainability	22	Financial Sector Issues	2

## More information on some topics:

### Resolution: **Business Plan for 2 degree Centigrade Warming Scenario**

The goal of the resolution is: a report on strategy for aligning business operations with IEA 2 degree Centigrade scenario, while maintaining the provision of safe, affordable and reliable energy.

Filed with these companies: AES Corporation, AMEREN, Anadarko Petroleum, Chevron, DTE Energy, Dominion Resources, Duke Energy, Entergy, Exxon Mobil, First Energy, Hess Corporation, Marathon Petroleum, Noble Energy, Occidental Petroleum, PNM Resources, Southern Company, Xcel Energy, Inc.

### Resolution: **Non-therapeutic Use of Antibiotics**

The goal of the resolution is: In the meat supply chain, to phase out the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics important to human medicine.

Filed with these companies: Jack in the Box, McDonald's, Sanderson Farms, Starbucks, and Yum! Brands.

### Resolution: **Risk Management/Business Standards** — Filed with Wells Fargo

The goal of the resolution is: Report on the root causes of Wells Fargo's fraudulent activity, and the steps it is taking to improve its risk management and control processes.

### Resolution: **Drug Pricing Transparency**

The goal of the resolution is: To disclose the rates (percentage) of price increases year-to-year of the company's top 10 selling branded prescription drugs since 2010.

Filed with these companies: Abbvie, Amgen, Biogen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Gilead Sciences, Johnson & Johnson, Merck & Co., Pfizer, Regeneron, and Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

### Resolution: **Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure**

The goal of the resolution is: To disclose company policy and procedures governing lobbying, both direct and indirect and grassroots lobbying communications.

Filed with these companies: 37 companies across multiple sectors, including AT&T, Alphabet, Bank of America, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Duke Energy, ExxonMobil, Ford, GE, IBM, UPS.

### Resolution: **Proxy Voting Policies on Climate Change**

The goal of the resolution is: To review proxy votes that are inconsistent with the company's climate change positions and scientific consensus and provide explanations for the incongruence.

Filed with these companies: Bank of New York Mellon, BlackRock, Franklin Resources, J.P. Morgan Chase, T. Rowe Price Associates, and Vanguard Funds.

## Some Investor Successes

ICCR members have negotiated **28 substantive agreements** with companies, and have withdrawn their resolutions as a result. Successes include:

- ❖ **Exxon/Mobil's** appointment of a climate scientist to its board of directors.
- ❖ **Jack in the Box / Restaurant Brands International** (Burger King and Tim Hortons) commitment to curb/phase out medically important antibiotics used in chicken.
- ❖ **Wells Fargo's** revision of its bylaws to separate its CEO and Board Chair roles.
- ❖ **Valeant Pharmaceuticals** agreed to a clawback of executive incentive pay.

# 2017 Resolutions Filed by Monasteries

## ALPHABET-GOOGLE, INC

*Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure*  
Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore  
*Political Contributions*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## ALTRIA (Phillip Morris)

*Advertising in Minority/Low Income Neighborhoods*  
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## AMGEN

*Drug Pricing Transparency*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica  
Monasterio Pan De Vida, Torreon

## ANTHEM

*Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure*  
Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

## AT&T

*Lobbying Expenditures — Climate*  
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica  
Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon  
Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

## CATERPILLAR, INC.

*Independent Director with Human Rights Expertise*  
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX  
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## CHEVRON

*Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica  
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore  
*Separate the Role of Chairperson and CEO*  
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL

*Executive Pay: Incorporate Sustainability Metrics*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## COCA-COLA - doing the report

*Greenhouse Gas Reduction — Renewable Energy*  
Primary Filer: Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## COMCAST

*Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## CONOCOPHILLIPS

*Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate*  
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore  
*Executive Pay: Incorporate Sustainability Metrics*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## CVS/CAREMARK

*Principles for Minimum Wage Reform*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore  
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## DUKE ENERGY

*Lobbying Expenditures — Climate Policy*  
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## EXXONMOBIL

*Business Plan for 2C Warming Scenario*  
Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore  
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica  
*Independent Director with Climate Change Expertise*  
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## GILEAD SCIENCES

*Drug Pricing Transparency*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## The HOME DEPOT, INC.

*Equal Employment Opportunity Disclosure (EEO-1 Report)*  
Primary Filer: Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## JOHNSON & JOHNSON (Dialogue)

*Drug Pricing Transparency*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## McDONALD'S

*Phase Out Routine Use of Antibiotics in Meat Supply Chain*  
Primary Filer: Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

## MERCK & CO., INC.

*Drug Pricing Transparency*  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

## OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM

*Review Public Policy Advocacy on Climate Change*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## PEPSICO

*Reduce Pesticide Use*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

## PFIZER

*Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate Change*  
Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

## PHILLIPS 66 (Dakota Access Pipe Line)

*Environmental and Human Rights Due Diligence — DAPL*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica  
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## SOUTHERN COMPANY

*Business Plan for 2C Warming Scenario*  
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## VERIZON

*Greenhouse Gas Reductions — Renewable Energy*  
Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

## VERTEX

*Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## WELLS FARGO

*Business Standards/Vision and Values/Risk Management*  
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore  
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## YUM! BRANDS, INC.

*Non-Therapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Animals*  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore



# Reflections

## Rights and Responsibilities

We are blessed that Pope Francis calls us, in his words and deeds, to work for justice. Reflecting on the challenge to live the Gospel, I see the Benedictine Sisters of Florida doing this first through prayer and then action. Our Corporate Commitment (CC) binds us to “respond with the compassion of Christ to the physical, spiritual, social and emotional hungers of the people of God.” Human rights are due to all, and those who have food, education, opportunity, and freedom have the responsibility to pass it on.

Our presence as a Community is counter-cultural and a witness to the desirability and possibility of community. We feed others through Daystar, our local food bank, through our CC actions (360 Thanksgiving dinner meals and lunches for Habitat workers), and our new venture, aquaponics. When we teach — Oblates, spiritual directees, retreatants and sometimes students in a classroom, it’s not just facts to be regurgitated for a test but enhancing thought and reflection that can enrich and give meaning/purpose to persons’ lives.

With our lives, hopefully, we teach and share values: Hospitality, Balance of Prayer/Work, Conversion, Peace and Non-violence. Along with Benedictines for Peace and the BCRI, our CC and Peace and Justice Committee also call us to protect the life/dignity of all persons, so we educate ourselves and others ... and do much lobbying.

**Sr. Mary David, OSB**  
St. Leo Monastery, Florida

Dear Friends, It is certainly necessary to give bread to the hungry — this is an act of justice. But there is also a deeper hunger, the hunger for a happiness that only God can satisfy, the hunger for dignity. There is neither real promotion of the common good nor real human development when there is ignorance of the fundamental pillars that govern a nation, its non-material goods: life, which is a gift of God, a value always to be protected and promoted; the family, the foundation of coexistence and a remedy against social fragmentation; integral education, which cannot be reduced to the mere transmission of information for purposes of generating profit; health, which must seek the integral well-being of the person, including the spiritual dimension, essential for human balance and healthy coexistence; security, in the conviction that violence can be overcome only by changing human hearts.

## Pope Francis

Address during visit to the Community of Varginha,  
July 25, 2013

## Our Gospel Call

Francis calls us to consider rights and responsibilities in the light of the common good. At times this will take us beyond the literal wording of our national documents and laws. However, the “document,” the “law” that must drive us is the Gospel and nothing else, nothing less.

The deepest reality of human life pushes past what is visible and measurable. In any and every way, our call is to broaden consciousness of this — in ourselves, in our nation, in the world.

**Sr. Marlene Milasus, OSB**  
St. Walburga Monastery

A nation which seeks the common good cannot be closed in on itself... The current problem of immigration makes this clear — instead of raising walls, we need to be building bridges. Building bridges instead of raising walls.

## Pope Francis

Address at Meeting with Civil Authorities in Bolivia  
July 8, 2015

## An Immigration Reflection on the Steps of a Federal Court House

On January 14, I participated with 75 others in ***A Prayer Tour: Welcoming the Immigrant & Refugee with Love***, at Sioux Falls, SD. We joined people across the country to stand together to show love for the immigrant and refugee. I gave the following reflection on the steps of the Federal District Court House:

Let us recall that we — all of us without exception — enjoy the most prized citizenship of all, citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven, where we are all children of God, and no one is labeled as undocumented or alien, illegal or subject to deportation. Let us recall that God-given dignity in the migrant, immigrant, and refugee.

For too long our elected officials have debated on how best to repair our broken immigration system. We pray that they will enact legislation soon to change our immigration laws and judicial processes to bring immigrants out of the shadows and onto the path to regularize their status.

Help us, our loving and merciful Lord, to continue to call boldly for humane treatment for immigrants and due process for all. Amen.

**Sr. Teresa Ann Wolf, OSB,**  
Director Benedictine Multicultural Center  
Mother of God Monastery, Watertown, SD

To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope!

## Pope Francis

Homily at his Inauguration, February 19, 2013



# Reflections

## On Being a Shaft of Light

The quotation from Pope Francis' Homily of 2/19/13 speaks succinctly to the mission of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, which is simply reverence. We do this through common prayer, stewardship, hospitality and mutual respect as we seek for and honor God present in each person and in all created things. Our corporate stances demonstrate this mission.

Francis said: "To profit every man and woman." We do this through our work and respect for immigrants, and prisoners, especially those sentenced to death, and those entrapped in the web of slavery and trafficking. In our effort of stewardship we respect and work for "tenderness and love" of all things. This requires a stance of standing up against war and the accumulation of weapons of any sort. We strive through our hospitality to be, in the words of Pope Francis, "the shaft of light breaking through the heavy clouds, bringing warmth and hope."

**Sr. Susan Kilduski, OSB**  
St. Scholastica Monastery, Chicago

## Our Relationship with the Land

There is concern in the United States about the future of our air, land and water especially when deregulation of controls on major corporations is imminent. The quote from **Lumen Fidei** points out, "Faith helps us to desire models of development which are based not simply on utility and profit..." At this critical time in history, we as Benedictines must pursue our commitment to discern and live out models of right relationship with the land which have been entrusted to our care.

Our monastery sits on almost one hundred acres of Ponderosa Pine forest, much of which is largely undeveloped. In our current situation, utility and profit are the first values to rise. However, Gospel values and the values in Benedict's Rule necessarily direct the decisions we make about the land, challenging us to balance current needs and the future common good.

**Ana Cloughly OSB, Director**  
Contemplative Vision Ministry, Benet Hill, Colorado

## God's "Grammar" in Creation

Grammar – we use it to master the intricacies of unambiguous communication. Back in school, I struggled with grammar until I realized that it provided guidance for my own intuitive journey with words. Pope Francis speaks of God's grammar placed in creation. Nature issues an invitation to understand the divine communication of love.

Our monastery grounds with gardens, a labyrinth, Lourdes Grotto, and many prayer spaces, are open to visitors. One evening, I met this couple. He was a paraplegic. They shared how they like coming to our grounds, enjoying the quiet, observing nature, taking pictures. The man said, "After my car accident, I was very depressed. When I come here and just look at the beauty, it stirs joy in me. I feel I can handle anything." Our monastic grounds as we maintain them faithfully as God's gift to us continue to be meeting places of human and divine communication.

**Andrea Westkamp, OSB**  
St. Benedict Monastery, Bristow, Virginia

## Stewardship

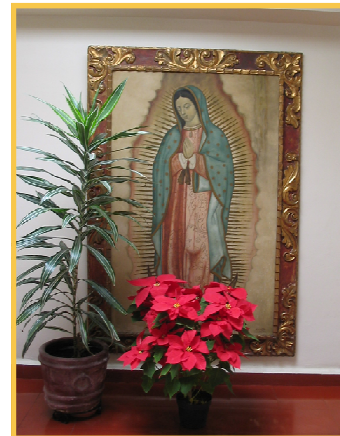
Here are some thoughts on our service to others who have less, not only in personal dignity but also in material possession. Living in Mexico for many years has given me more than one opportunity to experience the living conditions of the needy. An example is those who live in the mountainous area of Vera Cruz. There, it rains almost daily and is seldom sunny or warm. The poverty is exaggerated. In spite of the need for food, clothing, clean water, and housing, these people have learned that their strong faith in God is more important. Our Lady of Guadalupe is their favorite! Friendly, warm and generous with the little that they have, these people do not complain.

Women do most of the work: caring for the children, making tortillas, sweeping the dirt floors, washing clothes in the river. Few men remain in the pueblo as most leave in an effort to cross the northern border, a sometimes disastrous effort. Few return to their families. Our community ministers to these families by visiting a number of small pueblos. When the big white van turns up the road, children scream and the women know that they will receive love, a listening ear, instruction, and affection from us.

The poverty is extreme. Families live on what they can grow in their small plot of land around homes made of salvaged pieces of wood or plastic. The few who pick coffee beans for the wealthy owners earn pennies for their work. Children do the best work because their small fingers do not damage the ripe beans. To prevent accidents on these steep mountains, mothers tie their children to themselves with a few feet of rope. Food consists of homemade tortillas, a little salsa, and a diluted alcoholic drink for the children because there is no milk.

In spite of hardships, what makes their lives possible is faith, especially in Our Lady of Guadalupe. The need for food, clothing, blankets and medicine is strong. Our ministry here is a small effort to reach out to our sisters and brothers in these pueblos, but I believe that our joy is far greater than theirs.

**Sr. Josephine Markiewicz, OSB**  
Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City, DF



Faith, on the other hand, by revealing the love of God the Creator, enables us to respect nature all the more, and to discern in it a grammar written by the hand of God and a dwelling place entrusted to our protection and care. Faith also helps us to devise models of development which are based not simply on utility and profit, but consider creation as a gift for which we are all indebted.

**Pope Francis**

Encyclical **Lumen Fidei**, July 29, 2013, #55



# Issues and Actions

## Women's March, Washington, DC, 1/21/17

Although I marched in solidarity for gender equality, I also marched to promote the rights of the many marginalized groups in our society who are still not being heard.

Being an advocate for all injustice is the way to resolve the problem of divisiveness we see in present day. I believe that we should not let a problem directly affect us before we feel inclined to do something. We should stand in solidarity with all of humanity. After all, Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends!"

### MO Shannon

Benedictine Women Service Corps  
Associated with the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia, St. Benedict Monastery, Bristow, VA



## Women's March — Another Perspective

No words can describe the love and compassion that encompassed everyone at this protest — women, men, immigrants, African Americans, Muslims, children. It was not only peaceful but illustrated the strength and compassion of society as a whole. Individual's from all walks of life gathered to support themselves, their issues, but also the issues of others. Privilege was recognized but rather than being disregarded, it was embraced and used to solidify and recognize all issues. There are no words that describe the feeling of inclusivity and community that was illustrated by this march. I was proud to be a participant!

### Bethany Purkapile

Benedictine Women Service Corps  
Associated with the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia, St. Benedict Monastery, Bristow, VA

## When Was It?

*Was it when we first arrived that I could feel something extraordinary?*

*Or was it the smiles that greeted me and the kindness experienced as we moved through the streets?*

*Was it the determination I saw in the eyes of both the older and younger of my sisters? or the support in the faces of my brothers?*

*But somewhere on January 21 despite the huge crowds and numerous agendas expressed I came to realize we will all swim or sink together because we are all one.*

### Julia Elena Abdala, OSB

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia  
St. Benedict Monastery, Bristow, Virginia

## A Few Thoughts On Lou - Rest In Peace!

Lou Whipple had a great love for creation. She was a member of the Mount's Wangari committee named for Nobel Peace winner Wangari Maathai. The committee's focus was on the ecology, assisting the community efforts to be good stewards of our earth. Lou loved animals and all of nature. Together with Sister Elaine Fischer, Lou purchased the community's first bee colonies, became an expert on bee keeping and enjoyed caring for the bees.

Lou was active as a member of the Benedictine CRI and together with Sisters Rose Marie Stallbaumer and Barbara McCracken filed numerous shareholder resolutions over the years since joining the Benedictine CRI.

**Rose Marie Stallbaumer, OSB**  
Mount St Scholastica Treasurer



Seven Yale students spent their 2016 semester break volunteering at the RAICES office, the Casa de RAICES, the Karnes Detention Center, and the Sacred Heart Refugee Center in McAllen, Texas.

The Yalies commented on their experiences: "We were impressed by the accomplishments of the interfaith community in San Antonio, in particular, the contributions of the Interfaith Welcome Coalition. Some of us who come from more secular backgrounds had no experience with Catholic Sisters. You should say, we were unaware of their work with refugees and detention." They said they just did not know what a "nun" was.

The students, led by Maria Melchor, will write a group report on the situation of Central American refugee/asylum seekers to "share with the Yale community." Ms. Melchor states that the purpose of this project is to "galvanize them to support US policy change and an end to family detention."

The students were hosted for two nights by Janice and Bert Clayton of the Interfaith Welcome Coalition.

Yale Students who volunteered with RAICES: Laura Plata, Jinchun Zhou, Anna Rosenthal, Maria Melchor, Catherine Lou, and Harper Loonsk. Not pictured is Grace Paine.





# The Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) – Reflections

*From an email dated November 15, 2016:*

The Standing Rock Sioux camps set up to protest the pipeline and protect the water are about 35 miles from our monastery in Bismarck, but the protests have reached here. It is like nothing I have ever seen. Yesterday, 600 people marched at the capitol and then in downtown Bismarck, closing off roads for most of the day. Today there are protests just down the road from our college and monastery. Some of our Sisters attended a beautiful prayer service on Sunday at the Unitarian Church — our prayers were for peace and for clean water.

**Sr. Hannah Vanorny, OSB**

Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, North Dakota

## Standing Rock Sioux and the Pipe Line

Regarding Standing Rock, the situation is still ongoing. Although many protesters went home after the winter blizzards, there is still a contingent left determined to stay indefinitely. It is at a point where many fear there will be violence. The Trump administration pushes forward on the pipeline without first doing a detailed study of the land and people there, as the Obama administration had asked for. The current leadership and DAPL partners seem determined to build the pipeline, while natives still camped there are vowing to fight any construction.

One area of light is that the new governor of North Dakota, Doug Bergum, has seemed more open to meeting with the natives to discuss the pipeline and its impact it will have on their community. He recently met with tribal and camp leaders, including Standing Rock Tribal Chair Dave Archambault II, for nearly five hours.

A problem is that members of the tribe are themselves divided. Chairman Archambault is calling for a peaceful cleanup of the camps as they get ready to close, while a small group is committed to staying. That group includes Chase Iron Eyes, who ran for the U.S. Senate this past November. He was charged with felony “inciting a riot” after being arrested recently with 76 others trying to set up a new camp on land owned by the pipeline company.

With the number of protesters dwindling, the public anger and anxiety has died down, too. However, I hope that the issues raised — racism, treatment of native Americans, environmental concerns, the right to clean drinking water — will continue to have a presence in our collective North Dakota

conscience and in our decision-making. These protests, initially spurred by the potential contamination of clean drinking water, eventually laid bare the injustices suffered by Native Americans at the hands of the U.S. government ... old treaties, old injuries, terrible treatment of native peoples and their ancestors. These are some of the issues these massive protests have raised.

**Sr. Hannah Vanorny, OSB**

Annunciation Monastery  
Bismarck, North Dakota



## The Dakota Pipeline: A Tribal Perspective

Some don't want to leave [the protest camps]. Some can't leave due to transportation home. We are trying to get things disbanded peacefully. Now, we see the fight evolve into the court rooms and beyond. But, what happens afterwards — years from now? How do we take this experience? We have learned a lot as a tribe — not all are enamored by the bottom line, so to speak.

There is a conscious effort to say there's a social awareness piece that is not just for the rights of the people, but for the rights of the environment to remain as pristine as possible. Why do we have to wait until we put everything into disrepair to figure out that we should have kept it going the way it was? You don't know what you have until it's gone. That's how I feel about the river and the land ... we have an area that is pristine. Why do we have to put it in disrepair and fix it 60 years from now? Why can't we keep it the way it is?

What are we pushing, what are we investing in? What are we telling people we want? I am in favor of renaissances, but I am also in favor of keeping things as they are. Why do we have to change it? Why don't we preserve it, instead of trying to “fix” it? Many indigenous [peoples] around the world have reached out to us and supported us. We at Standing Rock are not just fighting a pipeline issue, we are fighting for the validation that we haven't been given for a lot of years.

Often corporate America is founded on contracts, agreements, handshakes — promises. Reservations were founded on agreements, handshakes — promises. It's okay for the government to break them, as long as it's not a current contract. That's difficult for me to reconcile.

**Chad Harrison**

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Delivered at the ICCR meetings, February, 2017

Available on You Tube at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWfGpFYxcA>



# News Summaries on Key Issues



Associated Press, Photo by Eric Gay, File

## ANALYSIS: TRUMP'S BORDER WALL FACES REALITY CHECK

By Andrew Taylor and Alicia Caldwell from the Associated Press—Jan. 26, 2017

- ❖ U.S. taxpayers will foot the bill for the border wall, starting with money already in the Department of Homeland Security account. Then it's up to the Republican-led Congress to come up with \$12 billion-\$15 billion more, according to an estimate offered by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-KY.
- ❖ GOP leaders refused to commit to paying for the wall with spending cuts elsewhere in the budget. That could mean costs would be paid for by adding to the nation's \$20 trillion debt.

## THE REAL COST OF MR. TRUMP'S WALL

By the Editorial Board from The New York Times—Jan. 25, 2017

- ❖ Between 1983 and 2006, an average of 1.2 million people a year were apprehended trying to enter the country unlawfully.
- ❖ In 2016, just over 415,000 were caught trying to enter; most were Central Americans fleeing violence and poverty.
- ❖ Meanwhile, border security funding has increased from \$263 million in 1990 to \$3.8 billion in 2015.
- ❖ Mr. Trump ordered federal agencies to withhold the foreign aid Mexico receives from the United States for narcotics enforcement and judicial programs.
- ❖ If Mr. Trump were to cut off aid to Mexico, the savings would be modest; it got roughly \$142 million in 2016, which doesn't begin to pay for a wall along the 1,989-mile border.

## GLOOM DESCENDS ON MEXICO'S NAFTA CAPITAL

By Robbie Whelan from The Wall Street Journal—Jan. 26, 2017

- ❖ President Trump's threat to renegotiate the free-trade agreement and build a wall has created anxiety in Monterrey.
- ❖ According to Alberto de Armas, president of the Monterrey chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico, "Free trade is crucial to Mexico's growth."
- ❖ With six major manufacturers of industrial vehicles, trucks and cars and more than 200 first-tier suppliers, Monterrey is a major economic center for the Mexican auto industry.
- ❖ Roughly 84,000 people work in the local auto industry, accounting for a third of every sales dollar gleaned from exports, according to Manuel Montoya Ortega, the head of a local auto industry group.

*In 2016, Mexico's first quarter remittances of \$6.2 billion were 56.7% higher than the \$2.6 billion earned from oil exports for the same period. Last year, Mexican remittances were \$24.8 billion, while oil exports were \$18.7 billion. Crude oil production in Mexico reached an all time high of 3.5 million of barrels per day in 2003.*

## MEXICAN OFFICIALS CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY FORD'S MOVE TO CANCEL PLANT PROJECT

By Robbie Whelan and Anthony Harrup from The Wall Street Journal Jan. 3, 2017

- ❖ Ford Motor Co.'s decision to cancel a planned \$1.6 billion assembly plant in the Mexican industrial city of San Luis Potosí represents a major blow to ... Mexico's economy.
- ❖ Ford had planned to build the Focus, a small car, in the new factory and wanted to locate 2,800 jobs in the new facility.
- ❖ The auto industry accounts for a third of Mexico's manufactured exports. Production of cars and light trucks edged up to 3.2 million units in the first 11 months of last year, while exports were flat at 2.6 million units, nearly 2 million going to the U.S.

## NEW TRUMP DEPORTATION RULES ALLOW FAR MORE EXPULSIONS

By Ron Nixon and Michael D. Shear from The New York Times Feb. 21, 2017

- ❖ The Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday (Feb. 21) released a set of documents translating President Trump's executive orders on immigration and border security into policy.
- ❖ Immigration agents, customs officers and border patrol agents have been directed to remove anyone convicted of any criminal offense ... including people convicted of fraud in any official matter before a governmental agency and people who "have abused any program related to receipt of public benefits."
- ❖ The policy also calls for an expansion of expedited removals, allowing Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to deport more people immediately.

## INVESTORS BOLT MEXICO AS PESO ENTERS FREE FALL

By Ira Iosebashvili and Robbie Whelan from The Wall Street Journal—Jan 11, 2017

- ❖ On Wednesday, Jan. 11, the peso tumbled as Mr. Trump pledged to change U.S. trade policy with Mexico. It weakened 0.3% — to 21.8609 from 21.8009 pesos to the dollar.
- ❖ According to Juan Carlos Rodado, director of Latin American Research and Investment Bank Natixis, Mexico's economy could fall into recession, shrinking by as much 3.3% in 2017, if the U.S. imposes tougher trade terms.

### CURRENCY CONVERTER

1.00	US Dollar (USD)	GO
19.597500	Mexican Peso (MXN)	



Graphs and Charts provided by Reuters

## TRUMP TALK SOUNDS ALARM ON MEXICAN TRADE

By Lynn Brezosky from the San Antonio Express-News Jan. 18, 2017

- ❖ According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce: 14 million U.S. jobs depend directly on NAFTA trade. Of every dollar's worth of Mexican imports to the U.S., 40 cents represents U.S. content. NAFTA contributed to a trade deficit with Mexico and Canada that translated to a net loss of 1 million U.S. jobs, as reported by the Washington-based, Public Citizen.
- ❖ The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas reported that El Paso alone saw 18,500 trade displaced workers between 1994 and 2014. "When NAFTA began, the United States was exporting about \$5 billion in agricultural products to Mexico, and today we're exporting over \$20 billion," said Ryan LeGrand, Mexico director for the U.S. Grains Council.

# Immigration

## STATISTICS

• FY 2017 Congressional budget allocates 30,913 detention beds—29,953 adult beds at an average rate of \$126.46 per day and 960 family beds at an average rate of \$161.36 per day. (In 2016, the rate was \$342.73 per family/per night appropriated funding.) The budget provides \$319.0 million to cover the costs associated with the temporary care and transport of up to 75,000 Unaccompanied Children. (Homeland Security Budget Brief for Fiscal Year 2017)

• September 2016 — 39,501 individuals crossed ports of entry at the Southwest border.

• October 2016 — 46,195 individuals crossed ports of entry at the Southwest border. (Homeland Security Statement by Jeh Johnson, November 10, 2016)

• Between January-February 2017, the numbers of people being detained were down. As of March 8, 200 individuals were detained and placed in Karnes and 430 placed in Dilley Detention Centers.

• According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), by the end of Fiscal Year 2016, ended on October 31, the Department apprehended 530,250 individuals nationwide and conducted a total of 450,954 removals and returns. The U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) reported 415,816 apprehensions nationwide; and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested 114,434 individuals. (DHS Releases End of Year Fiscal Year 2016 Statistics, December 30, 2016)

• In FY 2016, the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) apprehended a total of 59,757 unaccompanied children and 77,857 family units nationwide. (DHS Releases End of Year Fiscal Year 2016 Statistics, December 30, 2016)



Pope Francis blesses a cross with Mary, Joseph and Jesus as immigrants fleeing. This occurred at the U.S. Mexico border (El Paso/Ciudad Juarez) - Feb. 2015

In recent days, proposals have been made, originating in the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency and circulated by the Department of Homeland Security, that **mothers and children detained at our borders who are entering illegally should be separated from each other in detention.** It is suggested that once this is known, it will serve an example to discourage future such attempts at entering our country illegally.

With my brother bishops and millions of people of good will, I must say the willful separation of families is a terrible injustice on its face! It is an assault on the human dignity we proclaim and uphold, a principle enshrined in our very own Declaration of Independence as a nation. I call upon the officials of our government to discard consideration of this unjust and inhumane method of border enforcement, commit to the unit of families, and work toward immigration policies that respect the dignity of the human person in all of his or her dimensions—including the right of families to remain intact.

**Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, MSPs—March 8th, 2017**

As immigrants themselves, our Benedictine foremothers understood the needs of immigrants coming to this country.

Rooted in the wellsprings of Christian Scriptures, we recall the migrations of our forebearers - Sara and Abraham, who left their homeland (Genesis 12:1-3) as well as Moses, who led the people out of Egypt (Exodus 3:7-10), and we hear the clear gospel call to welcome the stranger into our midst (Mt. 25:35).

As Benedictine monastic women, we listen with the ear of our hearts (Prologue of the Rule of Benedict) as we call for compassion and justice for all immigrant people. We are animated by our Rule which bids us to welcome, as Christ, all guests who present themselves (Rule of Benedict 53:1). Hospitality is a core value of Benedictine spirituality as well as a sacred duty and trust. Because we know that it is God whom we receive in the "other," we dare to speak out, even in this age of violence and fear of the stranger. We are compelled to raise our voices in an effort to transform the culture of fear and exclusion into one of peace and inclusion where the "stranger" becomes friend.

**Immigration Statement by the Prioresses in 2013**

## Keeping Up with the Terminology

Many buzz words have crept into the national discussion on issues that are important to the work we are doing. In condensed form, here are a few of these phrases and their definitions:

**Dystopia/dystopian** — (*noun*) an imagined place or state in which everything is unpleasant or bad, typically a totalitarian or environmentally degraded one; a person who advocates or describes an imagined place/state in which everything is unpleasant or bad. (*adjective*) relating to or denoting an imagined place or state in which everything is unpleasant or bad, typically a totalitarian or environmentally degraded one.

**Deep State** — (*noun*) a body of people, typically influential members of government agencies or the military, believed to be involved in the secret manipulation or control of government policy.

**Dark Web** — (*noun*) the part of the World Wide Web only accessible by means of special software, allowing users and website operators to remain anonymous or untraceable.

**Deconstruction of the Administrative State** — The dismantling of the system of taxes, regulations and trade pacts that are perceived to have slowed economic growth and negatively impacted U.S. sovereignty. Some use "hollowing out of government."





## Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

P.O. Box 200423 San Antonio, TX 78220

### Our Mission

*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.*

### Upcoming Dates

ICCR — June 12 - 16, 2017  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
— September 25 - 29, 2017  
New York, New York  
RCRI — October 31 - November 3, 2017  
St. Louis, Missouri

## 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. For further information about the coalition's work, please complete the following and mail it to the coalition at the address above. The Coalition staff includes: Sr. Susan Mika OSB, Ruben Lopez and Linda Murphy. In October 2016, we welcomed St. Walburga Monastery in Elizabeth, New Jersey as a new member! In March 2017, we welcomed the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas as a Partner Community.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MONASTERY (or other affiliation) \_\_\_\_\_

## 2016-2017 Benedictine CRI 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)
- **Sacred Heart Monastery**  
(Cullman, Alabama)
- **St. Walburga Monastery**  
(Elizabeth, New Jersey)
- **Benedictine Sisters of Erie**  
(Erie, Pennsylvania)
- **St. Scholastica Monastery**  
(Fort Smith, Arkansas)
- **Sacred Heart Monastery**  
(Lisle, Illinois)
- **Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore**  
(Lutherville, Maryland)
- **Benedictine Women — Holy Wisdom Monastery**  
(Madison, Wisconsin)
- **Monasterio de San Benito**  
(Mexico, D.F.)
- **Immaculata Monastery**  
(Norfolk, Nebraska)
- **Mount Saviour Monastery**  
(Pine City, New York)
- **St. Gertrude Monastery**  
(Ridgely, Maryland)
- **Benedictine Sisters of Florida**  
(St. Leo, Florida)
- **Monasterio Pan De Vida**  
(Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico)
- **Mother of God Monastery**  
(Watertown, South Dakota)

Welcome to our first Partner Community:

- **Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth**  
(Leavenworth, Kansas)