



# Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

March 2018 — Issue 21



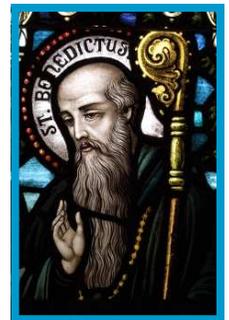
## *Keep on Keeping on ...*

When we think of all the events which happen each day on our planet, we often only reflect on those in our immediate realm. Our days are filled with work, interspersed with prayer. The jigsaw puzzle of our lives and our monasteries is composed of many pieces woven together. Our piece may seem to be so tiny that it does not matter. However, all the pieces fit together to make the whole. If a piece is missing, it becomes obvious very quickly. We all need each other to complete the mosaic.

Our work in the Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment (CRI) often times focuses on the big picture but is made up of all the individual pieces, grounded in our everyday lives as Benedictines.

*Hospitality as a Benedictine value ...* We welcome each other on a daily basis. What is our attitude when it comes to the other? Pope Francis has four phrases in his **Twenty Action Points** about migration. We are to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate migrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking.

*Stewardship as a Benedictine value ...* We care for the goods of our monasteries and work to preserve our legacies of prayer/work in view of future generations. Monasteries discern how to live Benedict's Rule in this age ... embracing the adaptations needed. How do we integrate our actions with our principles of stewardship? We strive to understand and clearly see how issues like net neutrality, trade rules and gun laws influence our lives each day. We use our portfolios as a way to be involved with many of these concerns. We raise our voices on behalf of many who are not seen and cannot be heard in the boardrooms of corporations.



*Care for each other as a Benedictine value ...* We strive to live the Christian life of service, using our gifts and talents to show others our compassion and care.

*Ora et  
Labora*

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We can care about what goes into our bodies. We raise issues about how commodities are grown, what antibiotics are in the supply chains we eat, what are the conditions under which this is produced, what is happening to the bee population – to name a few concerns.

We keep on keeping on. This is our call in this age. It is not enough to look back and be satisfied with past ages. These are changing, challenging times. We are up to the task of staying relevant in this age and every age. It is part of who we are as Benedictines. We prove this each day by staying faithful to our beliefs and our values, living out the Rule and the Gospel.

What is my piece of the puzzle that is unique?

What is our monastery's piece of the puzzle that is unique?

Who we are today will influence who we will be tomorrow.

# BCRI ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2017 – at the RCRI Conference, St. Louis, MO

The annual meeting of the Benedictine CRI, held on November 1, 2017 from 7:30-8:45 a.m. at the RCRI national conference in St. Louis, was attended by 23 RCRI members. The meeting began with the shared recitation of the prayer, "A Hopi Elder Speaks." Meeting time was limited due to the Eucharistic celebration of All Saints Day.

## Welcome

Sr. Rose Marie of Atchison opened the meeting welcoming all present and invited all to introduce themselves. She also distributed forms for all to sign in and update their contact information.

Three new members have joined the coalition since last year's meeting: the Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth, New Jersey, Christ the King Priory in Schuyler, Nebraska and, as a partner community, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas. Welcome!

All present were asked to share areas of concern for their community or region, as well as issues they would like to discuss or focus on at the meeting. Sr. Rosanne Zastoupil shared that the opioid crisis and human trafficking were of great concern for the Bismarck community; Sr. MT Summers reported that the Benet Hill Sisters are working on providing sanctuary; Sr. Andrea Westkamp shared that her community in Bristow is supporting a Muslim community trying to build a house of prayer. Sr. Karen O'Reilly spoke about the Benedictine community in Puerto Rico suffering from Hurricane Maria, and Sr. Susan Mika shared a list of contact information for the communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

## Update on Corporate Responsibility Actions

Sr. Susan Mika shared updates from ICCR along with a packet of information she had prepared for all. It included a calendar outlining filing dates for resolutions with a long list of corporations, primarily in the months of November and December.

## New Initiatives at ICCR

New initiatives at ICCR (Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility) include working against Gun Violence and fighting the Opioid Addiction Crisis. This is an opportunity to purchase stocks which are in this category.

ICCR has also initiated an Investor Alliance for Human Rights to guard against human rights abuses around the world, addressing such issues as fire and building safety in Bangladesh, the Rohingya genocide crisis in Myanmar, and human trafficking and the No Fees Campaign. This campaign addresses corporate practices which result in workers being recruited for labor in the US and then charged exorbitant recruitment fees or

unreasonable reductions in promised wages, leaving the workers vulnerable to exploitation.

## Other Focus Areas for ICCR Corporate Actions

**- Climate Change:** Work continues with corporations on renewable energy goals and reduction of their carbon footprint. A report of Coca Cola's efforts on renewable energy goals over recent years was shared. This report was a result of the 2015 resolution that we Benedictines filed.

**- Disposal Wells and Fracking:** This continues to be a concern because of the possibility of earthquakes near disposal well areas, the flaring of methane into the air and the large amounts of water which the processes use.

**- Banking Practices:** Susan shared information on proposed changes to SEC Rule 14a-8, the rule under which we file shareholder resolutions. The changes had been attached as a rider to the current efforts to undo the Dodd Frank legislation on banks. After the crisis in 2006-2007, bank regulations were tightened. Now, the groups wanting changes are focusing on this Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rule in order to increase the holding requirements for filing shareholder resolutions and the voting requirements at annual shareholder meetings for us to continue raising the questions.

**- Human Thread Campaign:** This campaign seeks to raise consciousness of fair trade garments and to advocate for the plight of garment workers worldwide.

**- Food and Water Issues:** In these areas, the focus continues to be on antibiotics used in the animals in the supply chain for these companies.

**- Chemicals in Products:** Susan shared a list of ingredients in products we use every day that are potentially harmful to consumers.

Susan also pointed out the Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS) Initiative on Child Sexual Exploitation Online. CBIS sponsored a workshop at the RCRI conference to address how children are being victimized online and the role of tech companies to help prevent such abuse and crimes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 so that members could attend the 9:00 RCRI general session.

*Sr. Rose Marie Stallbaumer, OSB*

*What we fear most is not the evil in ourselves, but the good in ourselves ... because the good can be so demanding.*

— Anonymous

# UPDATE FROM THE MONASTERIES



View of the new monastery being built at St. Scholastica in Fort Smith, Arkansas

## St. Scholastica Monastery Construction Update

New, environmentally friendly buildings are rising from the Arkansas earth as the Fort Smith Sisters prepare to enter a new dwelling for their monastic life together. The new monastery facilities will be ADA-compliant and incorporate features that will be more accessible, efficient and cost-saving.

The move-in date is targeted for late summer. The progress is hope-filled as the monastery prepares for this big move from their current five-story building.

## The Interconnectedness of Sustainability

Many facets of the corporate responsibility work being done by coalition members connect in unexpected ways. Our resolutions challenge multi-nationals to preserve water and food sources world-wide, and sometimes our tendency is to overlook less global realities. Let's talk about bees, for example. According to data provided by the Bee Informed Partnership, a non-profit dedicated to understanding the impact of honey bees in our own food chain, beehive losses in 2015-2016 equaled 40 percent of the hives.

What does that mean for us? We asked for input from our member monasteries who have bee colonies. Sister Helen Meuting from Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas, provided us with keen insight and easy solutions to a growing crisis. Sister writes that Mount St. Scholastica has been blessed to have very little bee colony loss due to pesticides. The community has made a conscious choice to control pests and weeds organically, as well as to plant ground cover that is both good for soil improvement and for bee food. Raising awareness among neighbors and employees about the dangers and effects of using toxic chemicals on bees and other pollinators is part of the strategy to protect the bees. Two beehives were lost this winter due to the extremely cold temperatures.



Sister Helen further suggests several simple ways of helping bees and other pollinators would be to plant trees and flowers that are pollinator friendly. Plants and flowers include salvia, clover, bachelor buttons, forget-me-nots, sage, thyme, lavender, and rosemary. Beneficial trees are apple, cherry, honey locust, redbud, crabapple, and tulip. Eliminating the spraying of chemical insecticides and herbicides and using organic methods of controlling weeds and pests are also important.

Brother Pierre from Mount Saviour Monastery in Pine City, New York, has a more dismal report. The monastery lost all 24 of its hives this winter. It was fortunate that the monks were able to harvest a record amount of honey this Fall before the loss of the bees. In a July 2017 article in The Costco Connection magazine, Stephanie Ponder states, "Bees play a vital role in roughly one out of three bites of food we take..." Truly, sustaining our bee colonies is a priority.

## 2017 BENEDICTINE CRI ANNUAL MEETING PARTICIPANTS

**St. Scholastica Monastery**  
Boerne, Texas  
Susan Mika, OSB

**Mount St. Scholastica**  
Atchison, Kansas  
Rose Marie Stallbaumer, OSB  
Barbara McCracken, OSB

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

**Benedictine Sisters of**  
Chicago, Illinois  
Mary Ann O'Ryan, OSB  
Roberta Bieganowski

**Benedictine Sisters of**  
Perpetual Adoration  
Clyde, Missouri  
Valerie Stark, OSB

**Benedictine Sisters of**  
Cullman, Alabama  
Sherrie L. Brainard, OSB

**St. Scholastica Monastery**  
Ft. Smith, Arkansas  
Ravi Thiagarajan  
Pat Bolling, OSB

**Benedictine Sisters of the**  
Sacred Heart, Lisle, Illinois  
Helen Jilek, OSB  
Mary Bratsovsky, OSB

**Immaculate Monastery**  
Norfolk, Nebraska  
Rita Marie Tofflemire, OSB

**Mother of God Monastery**  
Watertown, South Dakota  
Terri Hoffman, OSB

**Benet Hill Monastery**  
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
MT Summers, OSB

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

**St. Walburga Monastery of**  
Elizabeth, New Jersey  
Marlene Milasus, OSB

**Monastery of St. Gertrude**  
Cottonwood, Idaho  
Janet Marie Barnard, OSB

**Sisters of St. Benedict of**  
Crookston, Minnesota  
Myra Schmieg, OSB  
Dan Johanneck

**St. Mary Monastery**  
Rock Island, Illinois  
Susan Hutchens, OSB  
Jennifer Carber

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

**Saint Joseph Abbey**  
St. Benedict, Louisiana  
Jennifer Whitehouse

**Benedictine Sisters of the**  
Annunciation, Bismark, ND  
Rosanne Zastoupil, OSB

**St. Paul's Monastery of**  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
Karen Somes, OSB

**St. Benedict Monastery**  
Bakerstown, Pennsylvania  
M. Michael Mack, OSB  
Karen Brink, OSB

**Sacred Heart Monastery**  
Yankton, South Dakota  
Mary Kay Panowicz, OSB

**Sisters of St. Benedict of**  
Ferdinand, Indiana  
Jean Marie Ballard, OSB  
Barbara Lynn Schmitz, OSB

**St. Joseph Monastery of**  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Catherine Martinez, OSB

**Federation of Saint**  
Scholastica  
Lynn McKenzie, OSB,  
President



# 2018 Shareholder Resolutions Filed

## **ALKERMES PLC**

### *Sustainability Reporting*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## **ALPHABET-GOOGLE, INC**

### *Lobbying Expenditures — Climate*

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, Alabama

### *Executive Pay — Incorporate Diversity and Sustainability Metrics*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## **AMAZON.COM, INC**

### *Executive Pay — Incorporate Diversity and Sustainability Metrics*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## **AMGEN**

### *Drug Pricing Transparency*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio Pan De Vida, Torreon

## **AT&T**

### *Lobbying Expenditures — Climate*

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

## **BRISTOL-MEYERS SQUIBB CO.**

### *Drug Pricing Transparency*

Monasterio Pan De Vida, Torreon

## **CATERPILLAR, INC.**

### *Independent Director with Human Rights Expertise*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## **CHEVRON**

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

### *Asking for the Feasibility of Adopting Policy of Not Doing Business with Governments Complicit in Genocide*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

## **COCA-COLA**

### *Published Report on Renewable Energy Goals*

Primary Filer: Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## **COMCAST**

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## **CONOCOPHILLIPS**

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate*

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

## **CVS/CAREMARK**

### *Paid Family Leave Policies*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## **DENNY'S CORPORATON**

### *Phase Out Medically Important Antibiotics in Supply Chain*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## **DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICE**

### *Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO Report)*

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

## **EXXONMOBIL**

### *Lobbying Expenditures — Climate*

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

### *Lobbying Expenditures Report*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

### *Independent Chairperson of the Board of Directors*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## **FACEBOOK, INC**

### *Risk Oversight Committee*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## **FORD MOTOR COMPANY**

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure*

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## **GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP**

### *Lobbying and Political Contributions*

Monasterio Pan De Vida

## **The HOME DEPOT, INC.**

### *Equal Employment Opportunity Disclosure*

Primary Filer: Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## **JOHNSON & JOHNSON**

### *Separate the Roles of Chairperson of the Board and CEO*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

# 2018 Shareholder Resolutions ... continued

## McDONALD'S

### *Phase Out Routine Use of Antibiotics in Meat Supply Chain*

Primary Filer: Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX  
 Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore  
 Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, Alabama

## TYSON FOODS

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica  
*Water Impacts of Business Operations*  
 Monasterio Pan de Vida

## VALERO

### *Business Plan for 2C Warming Scenario*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## VERTEX

### *Drug Pricing Policy*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## WALGREENS BOOTS ALLIANCE

### *U.N. Sustainable Development Goals*

Monasterio Pan De Vida

## WELLS FARGO

### *Business Standards/Vision and Values/Risk Management*

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

## YUM! BRANDS, INC.

### *Non-Therapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Animals*

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

### *Paid Family Leave Policies*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore



## What questions are religious shareholders asking?

There were 266 shareholder resolutions filed for the 2018 Proxy Season. By issue:

Climate Change	61
Inclusiveness/Diversity	57
Lobbying/Political Contributions	45
Human Rights/Trafficking	26
Corporate Governance	25
Environment, Health, Sustainability	23
Health, Food, Water	27
Financial Practices	2

### 2018 New Topics for Shareholder Resolutions

#### **Family Paid Leave**

This resolution was filed with Starbucks, YUM! Brands, CVS Brands. The resolution asks the Companies to evaluate their current policies on paid family leave and expand them.

#### **Sustainability Reporting**

This resolution was filed with Rite Aid, Tootsie Roll Industries, ILG, Skechers, Cambrex, Alkermes, Tesla, Kaiser Aluminum, Priceline Group. It asks the company to issue an annual sustainability report describing policies, strategies, performance, and improvement on material environmental, social and governance issues.

#### **Gun Safety**

This resolution was filed with American Outdoor Brands and Sturm Ruger & Company. It asks for a report on activities related to gun safety measures and mitigation of harm associated with gun products.

### SEC Rulings

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is the government entity which makes the rules of engagement for shareholder resolutions. Originally established in 1934, the rules have been tweaked several times. Currently, we still need 3% of the shareholders to vote YES in the first year a resolution is presented; 6% the second year and 10% the third year. In 2017, the SEC issued guidance on how it will rule on various issues raised. The stance of ICCR and its allies is that the process is working and does **not** need to be changed.

In the 2018 Proxy Season, we see many resolutions challenged at the SEC. The companies file “no-action” letters, asking the SEC to take no action against them if they do not put the resolution on the ballots for all shareholders to vote on. We must defend our position. This is the process we are currently in with many of the resolutions.



# Issues — Gun Violence

## Gun Violence — What Do We Know AND What Can We Do?

Recent horrific tragedies have again brought us to the intersection of Second Amendment guarantees and the rights of innocent people to be safe — at church, at schools, at music concerts, in movie theatres ... everywhere. Many are saying that, perhaps this time will be different. In the articulate, grief-filled voices of the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, a call to do something to stop the incessant instances of gun violence is being heard throughout the nation and the world. The words found in Isaiah (11:6), "And a little child shall lead them," though written to portray the harmony of creation, equally identify the forces motivating a more determined effort to control the blurred lines of gun rights versus gun control.

Some facts and proposals are worth noting as the Parkland student pleas continue to echo in schools and state houses and public forums throughout America:

- ◆ President Trump has ordered Attorney General Sessions to propose a ban on so-called bump stocks.
- ◆ In a "listening session" in the White House exactly one week after the Parkland, Florida shooting, the President offered solutions ranging from strengthening background checks for gun sales to arming some teachers in classrooms.
- ◆ According to an article written by David Emery, February 20, 2018, in ***SNOPE***, there have been seven shootings in 2018 on school campuses in the U.S. "that occurred during normal school hours."
- ◆ Approximately 11,000 people in the U.S. are killed in firearm assaults each year. In 2017, 15,577 were killed. ([www.gunviolencearchive.org](http://www.gunviolencearchive.org))

The conversations continue. It seems, though, that this time these young people will be the ones to call all of us to action, not just words of sympathy and condolence. The question to ask now is not so much what can we do, but rather what will we do?

## States and Cities Take the Lead on Gun Control

The states of Massachusetts and New Jersey, as well as the cities of Denver and Columbia, South Carolina, have enacted laws the sale and possession of bump stocks. These prohibiting devices were originally intended to help people with disabilities enjoy hunting. They fit over the stock and pistol grip of a semi-automatic rifle, allowing the weapon to fire rapidly.

The Florida State Senate and House passed a bill to ban bump stock sales and possession, raise the age to purchase all guns to 21, allow for so-called "red flag" ability to temporarily remove guns from persons declared by the courts to be unstable, and provide an opportunity for some teachers to be armed. On Friday, March 9, Governor Scott signed this bill into law. Within hours, the N.R.A. filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court, arguing that the bill violated the Second and 14th Amendments.

Connecticut is another state considering similar bans. In addition, the state of Washington enacted a law on March 6, that will prohibit the sale and manufacturing of bump stocks beginning July 1.

Some sourcing from Lisa Marie Pane, ***Associated Press*** 2/5/2018 and Patricia Mazzei, ***The New York Times*** 3/9/2018

## Companies Announcing Discontinuation of NRA Discounts

- ▶ **Delta Air Lines:** 1st airline to repeal NRA member discounts — CEO states "Our values are not for sale."
- ▶ **United Airlines:** Ended discounted flights for NRA members traveling to their annual meeting.
- ▶ **Enterprise Holdings:** Parent company of car rental brands Enterprise, Alamo and National to end NRA discount deals within a few weeks.
- ▶ **Hertz:** Ending discounts to NRA members.
- ▶ **Avis and Budget:** Parent company of Avis and Budget rental car firms to end NRA member discounts.
- ▶ **Symantec:** Lifelock, this cybersecurity company's identity theft protection service for businesses, and Norton anti-virus software terminated NRA member discounts.
- ▶ **TrueCar:** NRA member deals with this online car-buying service terminated (members saved an average of \$3,400 off new and used vehicles).
- ▶ **MetLife:** Auto and home insurance policy discounts for NRA members ended.
- ▶ **SimpliSafe:** Special promotions by this home security company to NRA members ended Friday, Feb. 23, 2018.
- ▶ **First National Bank of Omaha:** First company to respond to the gun-control debate by cutting the issuance of an NRA-branded Visa credit card effective immediately. Nathan Bomey, ***USA Today***, 2/26/2018

## Major Gun Retailer Dick's Sporting Goods Will Stop Selling Assault-Style Rifles

Dick's Sporting Goods, effective immediately, is ending sales of all AR-15s and other semiautomatic rifles in its stores and websites permanently. The retailer will no longer sell high-capacity magazines and would not sell any gun to anyone under 21 years of age, regardless of local laws.

CEO Edward Stack is also calling on elected officials to enact "common sense gun reform" by passing laws to raise the minimum age to purchase guns to 21, to ban assault-type weapons and so-called bump stocks, and to conduct broader universal background checks that include mental-health information and previous interactions with law enforcement.

Source: ***The New York Times***, February 28, 2018

# Issues — Immigration

## Court Hands DACA Recipients Another Victory

U.S. District Judge Philip Gutierrez ruled that the government can't revoke DACA recipients' work permits or other protections without giving them notice and a chance to defend themselves.

The Obama-era DACA program protected young immigrants brought here by their parents illegally from deportation if they met certain criteria, paid fees, passed background checks and didn't commit serious crimes.

The judge ordered the Department of Homeland Security to restore protections to the group of DACA recipients whose protections had them revoked "without notice, a reasoned explanation, or any opportunity to respond." The ruling also temporarily blocks officials from revoking DACA protections from others without following a procedure including "notice, a reasoned explanation, and an opportunity to be heard prior to termination."

Source: CNN, February 27, 2018

## U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Urges "Humane Solution" for Dreamers



After the Supreme Court ruling outlined in the article to the right, the USCCB Chair of the Committee on Migration, Bishop Joe S. Vásquez, issued a statement, which read in part:

The Court's decision does not reduce the urgency of finding an immediate legislative solution for people brought to the U.S. as children. "The anxiety and uncertainty that Dreamers and their families face remain unabated."

The Bishops stated "protecting these young people from deportation is an issue of human life and dignity..."

**March 9 Update from the Justice for Immigrants Committee:** The Department of Homeland Security issued a March 7, 2018 press statement noting that current DACA recipients or those with renewal applications pending will not be targeted for enforcement. They remain fearful, and some have had their employment authorization revoked. Clearly, "we must continue advocating for 'Dreamers'."

## Supreme Court Turns Down DACA Appeal

In a **New York Times** article dated 2/26/18, reporters Adam Liptak and Michael Shear summarized the latest information available about the status of DACA recipients in the face of the March 5 deportation deadline:

- The U.S. Supreme Court denied the Trump request to skip the appellate process at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals without comment.
- Two Federal District Courts (San Francisco and Brooklyn) ruled the administration had acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" in terminating the program. Each issued nationwide injunctions against terminating DACA status for 700,000 "dreamers."

## DACA Deadline Passes and D.C. Event

According to **RAICES**, the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services, the March 5 DACA deadline has come and gone with no change in status for recipients. RAICES encourages them to continue to renew their status. This was confirmed in the **San Antonio Express-News** article by Jason Buch, on March 6, stating that "DACA permits can be renewed up to six months in advance of their expiration...for up to six months from every day the judge's ruling is in place."

Five representatives from the Erie Benedictines for peace were among about 40 Catholic nuns and leaders who were arrested February 27, 2018 in Washington, D.C. at a rally calling for immigration reform.

"We were arrested and released, but we also are aware that the dreamers are living in fear and it's not ending for them, and there's no end in sight for a fix solution," Sr. Anne McCarthy said.

"The Capitol Police gave us three warnings and then they tapped us on the shoulder and said we were under arrest if we did not quit praying and demonstrating," said Mekuly, a 28-year-old Lawrence Park Township resident. Ron Leonardi, [GoErie.com](http://GoErie.com), 2/28/2018

In its first nationwide call-in day (2/28/18) in support of DACA, the Justice for Immigrants Committee of the USCCB reported 48,000 calls to the U.S. Congress on behalf of the "Dreamers." Many Benedictine CRI members joined in this important effort to challenge Congress to find a real solution for these young people.

## ***A Reflection on the "Immigrant"***

Sr. Virginia Jung, OSB — St. Scholastica Monastery, Chicago, IL

My inspiration for this reflection comes from Carlos Fuentes, ***The Buried Mirror: Reflections on Spain and the New World***, New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1992:

***"The U.S.-Mexico border, some of those who cross it say, is not really a border but a scar. Will it heal? Will it bleed once more? When a Hispanic worker crosses this border, he sometimes asks, 'Hasn't this always been our land? Am I not coming back to it? Is it not in some way ours?' He can taste it, hear its language, sing its songs and pray to its saints. Will this not always be a Hispanic land?"***

As a child, I used to visit my Uncle Jack in Tucson, AZ, where the tastes, language, songs, saints, and the land itself spoke to my soul. For years, I studied Spanish and the amazing culture, history and geography of the lands where people speak Spanish and for years, I taught these to others.

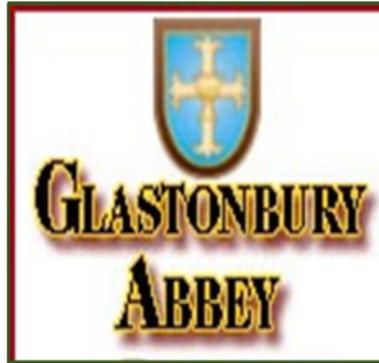
I continue to accompany people of the Latino community in Chicago as a pastoral counselor and as a student of their amazing lives. People on the move are **people** first, in this case, a worker — could be a mother or grandfather, a student, a nurse. May we respect and foster our human right to come and go here in our planet home, not trafficked, not banned.

# Investment, Inspiration and Issues

## **Benedictine CRI Receives \$1,000 Grant**

Glastonbury Abbey, a Benedictine community in Hingham, Massachusetts, recently awarded the coalition a \$1,000 grant to support its corporate responsibility work. In our award letter, the Abbey's Director of Mission Advancement, Ms. Hayes Shea, wrote: "We are grateful that you are doing such meaningful work, and gracing this world of ours with your philanthropic efforts and compassion."

Congratulations to everyone whose dedication and commitment have been so generously rewarded by the monks of Glastonbury Abbey.



16 Hull Street, Hingham MA 02043

*"If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## **Net Neutrality**

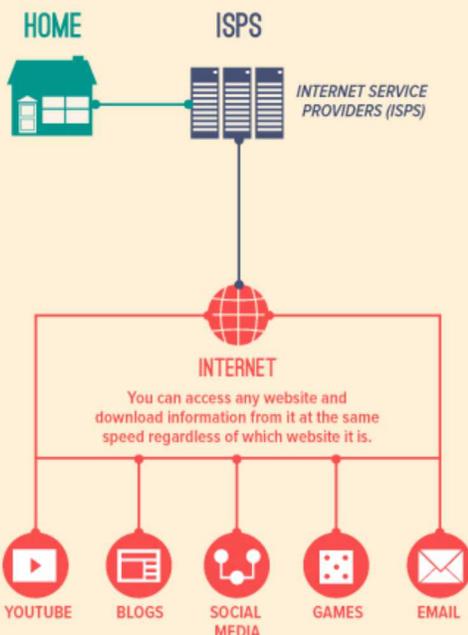
In an unusual move, AT&T has placed a full-page ad in several major newspapers asking Congress to create a national net neutrality law governing Internet providers and tech companies. Brian Fung, in **The Washington Post** January 24, 2018 edition, mentioned the ad and AT&T Chief CEO Randall Stephenson's proposal for an "Internet Bill of Rights that could help guarantee an open Internet..."

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) vote to repeal net neutrality rules is "being challenged in court and in Congress." In the ad, Stephenson called for net neutrality rules that guarantee "neutrality, transparency, openness, non-discrimination and privacy protection for all internet users."

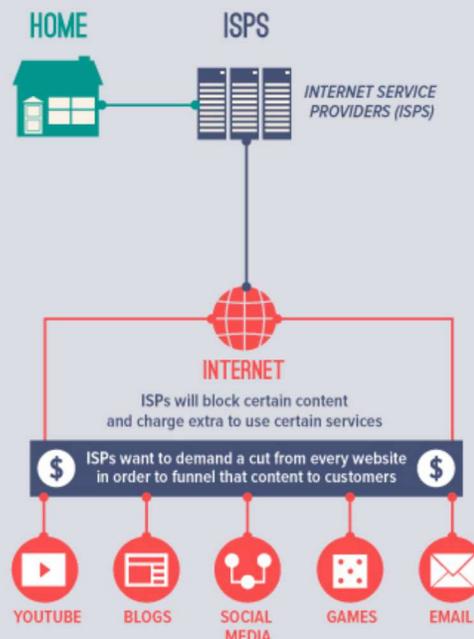
**New York Times** reporter Cecilia Kang indicated that 21 state attorneys general filed suit against the FCC for its "arbitrary and capricious" repeal of the net neutrality rules. She reported four additional suits by public interest groups: "Mozilla, the Open Technology Institute, Free Press, and Public Knowledge." (2/16/2018)

In an article in the **Wall Street Journal** dated December 14, 2017, which included Pew Research Center statistics, "There is clear evidence of organized campaigns to flood the comments with repeated messages. Of the 21.7 million comments posted, 6% were unique. The other 94% were submitted multiple times." Paul Hitlin, Kenneth Olmstead and Skye Toor contributed to this article.

## HOW THE INTERNET IS TODAY



## HOW ISP'S WOULD LIKE THE INTERNET TO BE



**Graphic created by The Action Network: People Demanding Action (PDA)**

The charts show possible consequences of allowing internet providers to filter both content and access to the internet.

# Updates

## Recent Company Progress

The following companies have recently improved their paid family leave policies:

- **Starbucks** extended paid family leave benefits to fathers and adoptive parents regardless of whether they work in corporate roles or as baristas in stores.
- A January announcement by **Walmart** changed parental leave benefits to include both salaried and full-time employees: 16 weeks for birth mothers and six weeks for other parents, fully paid. Given Walmart's reach and the fact that this new policy applies to hourly workers, it is possible that new family leave benchmarks may have entered the marketplace.
- In February, **CVS Health** announced a new paid family leave policy: all full-time CVS employees will be eligible for up to 4 weeks of 100% paid family leave (in addition to a further 6 weeks of paid leave for birth mothers). CVS's policy now includes fathers, adoptive parents, and foster parents equally. Furthermore, the policy applies equally to all employees.

## The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

Some of the impacts of the tax cut bill recently signed into law include:

- ◆ Permanent cuts to the corporate rate from 35% to 21%.
- Corporate taxes on money earned abroad are eliminated; the corporate tax rate on income brought back to the U.S. drops from 35% to rates from 8%-15.5%.
- ◆ Corporate and higher income tax cuts will cause a \$1.46 trillion loss of revenue.
- ◆ Restructuring of the tax rates for individuals actually increases the percentage for lowest-income Americans from 10% to 12%, while other income brackets will see modest decreases of 3% to 9%.
- ◆ Although tax rates are permanent for all corporations, individual tax rates are set to expire in 10 years.
- ◆ The Committee for Responsible Federal Budget indicates that expiring the individual cuts actually hides between \$570-\$725 billion in potential costs increasing the deficit to over \$2 Trillion.

Vox, December 22, 2017



## Walmart

Recent developments surrounding **Walmart** operations include a mixed bag of new policies and procedures. After announcing an increase to its starting wage for hourly employees in the U.S. to \$11 per hour and an increase in parental leave benefits, Walmart abruptly shuttered 63 of its Sam's Club locations across the country. Twelve of those locations will be converted into e-commerce facilities.

In addition, the company announced one-time cash bonuses to eligible employees of as much as \$1,000, depending on years of service. The payouts should total roughly \$400 million, and will be determined on the following scale: (20+ years — \$1,000; 15-19 years — \$750; 10-14 years — \$400; 5-9 years — \$300; and bonuses for those with 2-4 years — \$250).

New parental leave policies are mentioned in the text box to the left. Additionally, Walmart is offering financial assistance to employees adopting a child. Up to \$5,000 per child to cover expenses such as adoption agency fees, translation fees and legal costs is now available.

Two weeks after these announcements, Walmart began cutting positions at its headquarters. This year 400-500 employees in its marketing, merchandising human resources, and real estate divisions were informed they will have 60 days to find a new role in the company or lose their jobs completely. A second phase of cutbacks will come in 2019, when some buildings are consolidated to make way for the new corporate headquarters, affecting slightly under 500 positions.

CNBC, February 11, 2016

## U.S. Will Hit Debt Limit Sooner than Expected because of Tax Cuts

- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) announced that the U.S. is expected to reach its borrowing limit about a month earlier than previously projected, a revenue loss that is a direct result of last year's \$1.5 trillion tax cut.
- Previous estimates by the CBO forecast the debt limit would need to be raised beyond its current level of \$20.5 trillion sometime in late March or early April.
- Beginning with implementation of the tax cuts in February, 2018, the Treasury could see \$10-\$15 billion less tax revenue each month.
- Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin asked Congress to lift the debt limit at the end of February in order for the U. S. to borrow the money necessary to pay its current bills.
- The CBO further stated that last month's deficit totaled \$23 billion. Annual deficits continue to rise by at least \$1 trillion. The national debt currently tops \$20 trillion.

New York Times, January 31, 2018

# Issues — Health

## Opioid Crisis — Fast Facts

- Opioids are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin) and hydrocodone (Vicodin).
- During 2015, there were 52,404 overdose deaths in the United States, including 33,091 (63.1%) that involved an opioid. That's an average of 91 opioid overdose deaths each day.
- According to market research firm IMS Health, the number of opioid prescriptions dispensed by doctors increased from 112 million prescriptions in 1992 to a peak of 282 million in 2012. The number of prescriptions dispensed has since declined, falling to 236 million in 2016.
- Between 2006 and 2014, the most widely prescribed opioid was hydrocodone (Vicodin).
- In 2014, 7.8 billion hydrocodone pills were distributed nationwide. The second most prevalent opioid was oxycodone. In 2014, 4.9 billion oxycodone tablets were distributed in the United States.
- The International Narcotics Control Board reported that in 2015, Americans represented about 99.7% of the world's hydrocodone consumption.
- The number of overdose deaths related to heroin increased 533% between 2002 and 2016, from an estimated 2,089 in 2002 to 13,219 in 2016.
- According to a report in the journal Medical Care, in 2013, the cost of medical care and substance abuse treatment for opioid addiction and overdose was an estimated \$78.5 billion.

Source: **CNN Library**, 10/29/2017

## United States life expectancy declines for a second straight year

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American life expectancy at birth declined for the second consecutive year in 2016, fueled by a staggering 21 percent rise in the death rate from drug overdoses.
- More than 42,000 Americans died of opioid overdoses alone in 2016, a 28% increase over 2015.
- Overall, life expectancy dropped by a tenth of a year, from 78.7 to 78.6 years. It fell two tenths of a year for men, whose overdose death rates are much higher, from 76.3 to 76.1. Women's life expectancy held steady at 81.1 years.
- The number of people who fatally overdosed on fentanyl and other synthetic opiates soared from 9,580 in 2015 to 19,413 in 2016.

Source: **The Washington Post**, Lenny Bernstein and Christopher Ingraham, 12/21/2017

## Updates from the Tyson Foods Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Tyson Foods was held in Springdale, Arkansas on February 8, 2018. Although Benedictine CRI members were not able to attend the meeting, two member monasteries provided their proxies to allow other co-filers to attend — Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas, and Monasterio Pan de Vida in Torreon, Mexico.

Two shareholder resolutions important to the work of the coalition were presented, both with positive results. The **Water Impacts of Business Operations** resolution received 15.83% of the vote, an increase from 14.6% in 2017. The vote represented about 63% of the shares not owned by the Tyson Limited Partnership. A second resolution on **Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure** received 11.9% of the vote. Under current SEC rules, these votes allow our members to continue filing shareholder resolutions in the next proxy season.

In addition to the shareholder action listed above, a group of stakeholders met with Tyson representatives encouraging them to continue their efforts to make sustainability improvements. They shared the Poultry Sector Best Practices document prepared by ICCR. The link to the document is:

<http://iccr.org/best-practice-guidance-poultry-industry-o>

Submitted by Mary Beth Gallagher  
Tri-CRI (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut)

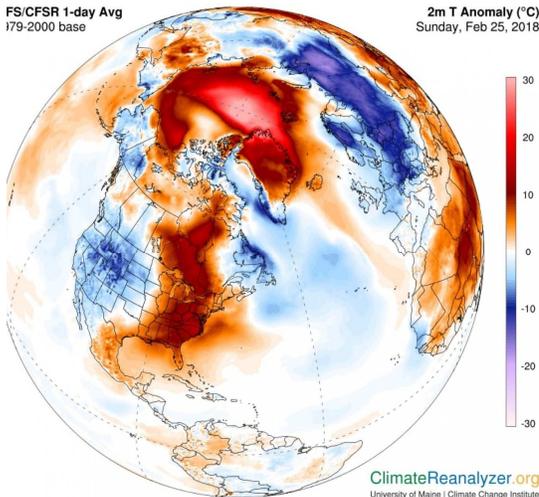


Shareholders outside of Tyson Chicken Hatchery  
Springdale, Arkansas

# Issues — Climate Change

## **Global “Weirding”**

A term coined by Hunter Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute in 2007 is resurfacing today as a way to explain the “weirdness” of weather patterns in recent years. It refers to the weather extremes associated with the effects of global warming ... hot temperatures getting hotter, cold getting colder, wet weather wetter, dry weather drier, and violent storms increasing in strength and frequency.



*Heat-sensitive satellite imagery taken Sunday, February 25, illustrating the extreme heat over the North Pole (center top of picture) as reported on by James Samenow in the 2/27/18 edition of the **Washington Post***

*You may not think you  
can reach it.  
Climb anyway.  
You may not think you'll  
be heard.  
Speak anyway.  
You may not think you  
can change things.  
Try anyway.*

Inspired by Maya Angelou

## **GLOBAL WEIRDING: The Past 12 Months**

Here are a few data points that illustrate some of the extremes we've experienced in the last year:

- ◆ The temperature in Sydney, Australia, 1/7/18, was 117.14°F.
- ◆ New York City averaged 16.4°F Jan. 1-7, 2018 — 16°F below average.
- ◆ Rainfall in France doubled in January, causing the Seine River to crest at 19.8 feet (normally 5.1 feet) for second straight year.
- ◆ In the 2017 Hurricane season, 17 named storms caused approximately \$231.14 billion in damages.
- ◆ An 8.1 magnitude earthquake hit in the Province of Oaxaca, Mexico, on Sept. 8, 2017, killing at least 91 people.
- ◆ On Sept. 19 2017, a 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit central Mexico, leaving at least 369 dead. Both earthquakes caused damages that were estimated in the \$2-4 billion range.
- ◆ In an article in the **Washington Post** dated 2/27/18, Jason Samenow reported on the stunning reality that the North Pole has experienced above-freezing temperatures and created a hole in the polar ice cap, temperatures estimated to be 35° — 50° above normal.

### **The 2017 Hurricane Season:**

- Six major storms (Category 3-5) hit the Atlantic/Gulf/Caribbean Regions.
- NOAA estimates Hurricane Harvey cost \$125 billion, second only to Hurricane Katrina (\$161 billion) in total costs.
- Estimates from NOAA indicate the cumulative cost of the sixteen separate billion-dollar weather events in the U.S. in 2017 was \$306.2 billion.
- Of the top 5 costliest U.S. hurricanes on record, three occurred in the 2017 season — Harvey (\$125 billion), Maria (\$90 billion) and Irma (\$50 billion).
- In one month's time (August 25-September 18), these hurricanes made landfall — Harvey (8/24 Cat 4), Irma (9/6 Cat 5), Jose (9/8 Cat 4), Katia (9/8 Cat 1), Lee (9/27 Cat 3), Maria (9/18-9/20 Cat 5).

## **The Impact of Global Weirding**

According to Aarop Ganguly of Northwestern's Sustainability and Data Sciences Lab, a major aspect of the global weirding phenomenon is its “impact on infrastructure, resources, species diversity and the economy. The impact of a warmer world and exacerbated extremes can be severe on both water and food sustainability and security, especially in the more vulnerable parts of the world.”

Dr. Ganguly's research and analysis is being further explored by Texas Tech University associate professor, Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, an atmospheric scientist who has created a YouTube video series entitled, “Global Weirding: Climate, Politics and Religion.”

The videos are posted on the [Global Weirding YouTube channel](#).



# 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 Meeting Dates

ICCR — October 1 - 5, 2018  
New York, New York

RCRI — October 30 - November 2, 2018  
Orlando, Florida

## BENEDICTINE CRI MEMBERSHIP 2018

- **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)
- **St. Benedict's Monastery** (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)
- **Christ the King Priory** (Schuyler, Nebraska)
- **Monasterio Pan De Vida** (Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico)
- **Mother of God Monastery** (Watertown, South Dakota)



## Partner Community:

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

## *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.

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

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

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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