



# Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

September 2018 — Issue 22

## A Time of Contrasts

In the 2018 Proxy Season, ten of the resolutions filed by the groups affiliated with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) received a majority vote. Resolutions need to receive 3% in the first year of a vote, 6% in the second year and 10% in the third year. Here are the companies, the issues and the voting results by percentage of independent voters:

<b>Sturm Ruger:</b> (Gun Violence)	<b>69%</b>	<b>Genesee &amp; Wyoming:</b> Climate Change)	<b>57.2%</b>
<b>Amerisource Bergen:</b> (Opioid Risks)	<b>62%</b>	<b>Middleby:</b> (Sustainability/Climate Change)	<b>57.2%</b>
<b>Amerisource Bergen:</b> (Clawbacks)	<b>52%</b>	<b>Anadarko Petroleum:</b> (Climate Change)	<b>53%</b>
<b>Tyson:</b> (Impact of Water on Business)	<b>61.6%</b>	<b>Ameren:</b> (Water Risk/Coal Ash)	<b>53%</b>
<b>Kinder Morgan:</b> (Climate Change)	<b>59.7%</b>	<b>Range Resources:</b> (Methane)	<b>50.25%</b>

In the immigration area, the images have been searing — children forcibly separated from their parents, protests against this policy, tent cities established, U.S. government officials not permitted answers to questions about immigrant detainee treatment. Two companies very involved in the area of family detention centers, CoreCivic (formerly called Corrections Corporation of America CCA) and The GEO Group, have reinvented themselves as Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) companies. This will allow them to manage real estate through their U.S. government contracts and reshape the rules applying to the immigrant populations detained in their facilities.

On the Paris Agreement (the Climate Accord agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), much has been said in the media about the U.S. withdrawal. We have looked into agreement rules and found that we cannot withdraw before November 6, 2020. Many corporations we speak with are proceeding with plans for implementing climate goals and objectives they established through strategic long-term planning.

As our year unfolds, we see the impact of weather changes across our globe. We deal with the uncertainty of precipitation. Farmers need a regular source of rain, especially if they do not have irrigation systems. In some areas, the infrequent rain continues. At one point, we were seeing California fires burning fiercely, rain up and down the East Coast and drought in the Southwest — all at the same moment. When the storms/hurricanes/tropical storms hit, we see flooding and devastation that will take much money, time and energy to rebuild. Last summer, we saw the effects of three major hurricanes — one right after another. We hear from islands being affected by rising waters as the Arctic melts. We saw the difficulties of rebuilding an island, Puerto Rico, and how long it took for essentials (water and electricity) to be restored.

### Inside This Issue:

● Shareholder Resolutions	2
● ExxonMobil AGM/Gun Control	3
● Other AGM Reports	4
● Updates	5
● Immigration Crisis	6
● Immigration Crisis Cont'd	7
● BCRI Member Updates	8
● Updates in the News	9
● The Environment	10
● New Member Welcome	11
● Thank You to Our Donors	12

Benedict's future visioning included a desire that monasteries be involved in local issues. These are the issues of the times in which we live—expanded by our understanding.

Somehow, in our digitally integrated world all of these various issues now belong to us — to help bring about awareness and change of policies to deal with our complicated planet, its people and its future. We are up to the task.



*Photo: "Families Belong Together" rally on May 31, 2018, in San Antonio, Texas — shoes and toys to represent the children who are being detained*





# Benedictine CRI — 2018 Shareholder Resolutions

## ALKERMES PLC

### *Sustainability Reporting—Withdrawn*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## ALPHABET-GOOGLE, INC

### *Lobbying Expenditures — Climate—9.39%*

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, Alabama

### *Executive Pay — Incorporate Diversity and Sustainability Metrics—8.73%*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## AMAZON.COM, INC

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

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## AMGEN

### *Senior Executive Incentives —*

### *Integrate Drug Pricing Risk—25.85%*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio Pan De Vida, Torreon

## AT&T

### *Lobbying Expenditures — Climate—34.30%*

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

## BRISTOL-MEYERS SQUIBB CO.

### *Drug Pricing Transparency—Dialogue*

Monasterio Pan De Vida, Torreon

## CATERPILLAR, INC.

### *Independent Director with Human Rights Expertise—4.80%*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## CHEVRON

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate—31.50%*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

### *Asking for the Feasibility of Adopting Policy of Not Doing Business with Governments Complicit in Genocide—7.30%*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

## COCA-COLA

### *Published Report on Renewable Energy Goals (two years after 2016 resolution)*

Primary Filer: Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## COMCAST

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure—19.10%*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## CONOCOPHILLIPS

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate—Withdrawn*

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

## CVS/CAREMARK

### *Paid Family Leave Policies—Withdrawn*

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—15.50%*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICE

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

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

## EXXONMOBIL

### *Lobbying Expenditures — Climate—26.20%*

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

### *Lobbying Expenditures Report—Withdrawn*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

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

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## FACEBOOK, INC

### *Risk Oversight Committee—11.55%*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## FORD MOTOR COMPANY

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure—16.50%*

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP

### *Lobbying and Political Contributions—9.20%*

Monasterio Pan De Vida

## The HOME DEPOT, INC.

### *Equal Employment Opportunity Disclosure—48.30%*

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—Withdrawn*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

# Benedictine CRI — 2018 Shareholder Resolutions



## McDONALD'S

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

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

## TYSON FOODS

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate—11.96%*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica  
*Water Impacts of Business Operations—61.6%*  
Monasterio Pan de Vida

## VALERO

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

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## VERTEX

### *Drug Pricing Policy—5.30%*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## WALGREENS BOOTS ALLIANCE

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

Monasterio Pan De Vida

## WELLS FARGO

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

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

## YUM! BRANDS, INC.

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

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

### *Paid Family Leave Policies—Withdrawn*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica



## ExxonMobil Shareholder Meeting: We've Never Seen a "Ban" Such as This ...

On May 24, 2018 we, the Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore, gave our proxy to Andrew Ross, an Australian with the Australia Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU), to attend ExxonMobil's Annual Meeting May 30, 2018 in Dallas, TX. The next day we received an overnight letter from the Corporate Secretary of ExxonMobil telling us that Andrew Ross was banned from attending or accessing any premises occupied by ExxonMobil because of his "unlawful and/or inappropriate behavior towards their workers and contractors." They did not provide any corroborating information to substantiate their accusations. We, along with Sr. Susan Mika, OSB, (Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment), Shawn Gilchrist (United Steelworkers International Union) and Troy Carter (AMWU) all agreed that "we've never seen a ban such as this." The right to use our proxy as we wish, and then banning Andrew Ross from the Annual Meeting without providing any substantiated facts was an unjust action taken by ExxonMobil.

Following the AGM, Troy Carter (AMWU, Shop Steward) sent us a thank you letter for extending our proxy to Andrew Ross. In that same letter he reported that ExxonMobil (dba Esso) hired a contractor terminating their entire maintenance workforce in June 2017. The next day the company offered them their jobs back with: a 40% wage cut, cuts to allowances and annual leave, no full-time employment, and short-term working contracts. These actions have negatively impacted Andrew's family and about 230 individuals and working families in Australia. The workers' collective bargaining agreement was replaced overnight by the decisions of five executives here in the U.S. — 2,500 miles away. These actions led to the "Standing Up & Fighting Back" strike campaign by the AMWU, now over a year old. We support the AMWU and others in solidarity as we continue working with ExxonMobil for just business practices and workers' rights.

[The Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore have owned stock in ExxonMobil since 1999. We file corporate resolutions as often as possible, especially on issues related to climate and environmental issues.]

## Gun Violence — Some Victories

During the 2018 proxy season, the Sturm Ruger vote on Gun violence received an historic 69% vote to report to shareholders the company's activities related to gun safety measures — including the research and production of safer guns and gun products.

The proposal included statistical data "to support sensible gun policy" in the wake of recent mass shootings.



Receiving continued shareholder pressure, major corporations have begun making corporate decisions to address the issue of gun violence. **Dick's Sporting Goods** has announced it will destroy all assault-style rifles and accessories it has removed from its stores and inventories — rather than return them to manufacturers.

The decision to stop selling firearms to consumers under the age of 21 included **Walmart**, **L.L. Bean** and **Kroger**. In addition, **Walmart** agreed to stop selling toys online that look like assault rifles, while **Kroger** announced the removal of "assault-rifle themed periodicals" from its stores.

Data for this article came from the following: Laura M. Holson, "Dicks' Sporting Goods Will Destroy the Assault-Style Weapons It Didn't Sell," **The New York Times**, 4/18/18



# Shareholder Actions



Esther Ng, Sr. Susan Mika, OSB, and Anna Falkenberg at the Caterpillar Annual General Meeting in San Antonio

## Caterpillar AGM Provides Insight into Corporate Responsibility Work

As a board member of the Socially Responsible Investment Coalition (SRIC), I have spent many hours listening to — and supporting — corporate responsibility. On June 13, 2018, I had the privilege of attending the Caterpillar meeting and watching Anna Falkenberg and Sr. Susan Mika present proposals to Caterpillar's shareholders. This allowed me to see in real time the processes of this important work.

Anna presented a proposal that would decrease the percentage of ownership required to call Special Shareholder meetings (32.44% support), and Sr. Susan presented a proposal to require human rights qualifications for director nominees (4.88% support). Although neither proposal was approved, the fact that we raised awareness on these issues will have an impact later.

The meeting was extremely short. I learned later that most AGM's are designed that way. After this experience, I have a great deal of respect for the work.

**Esther Ng, Board Member**  
Socially Responsible Investment Coalition

## McDonald's Annual Shareholders' Meeting

At the AGM held on May 24, 2018 on McDonald's Oakbrook, Illinois, Hamburger University Campus, Sr. Mary Ann O'Ryan read the Benedictine Sisters of Boerne shareholder resolution statement below, specifically regarding the use of pork and beef sourcing free from antibiotics.

I'm Sister Mary Ann O'Ryan, representing the Benedictine Sisters of Boerne who filed a shareholder resolution, asking McDonald's to set global sourcing targets for pork and beef raised without the routine use of medically-important antibiotics.

We entered into dialogue with McDonald's on this topic and withdrew the resolution. In the withdrawal letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission, McDonald's agreed to publicly announce an antibiotic use policy for beef purchased by its U.S. restaurants by the end of 2018.

We applaud McDonald's for its engagement with shareholders, and for its commitment to tackling corporate responsibility challenges.

We urge McDonald's to take a leadership role in the industry by adopting the recommendations of the World Health Organization and phasing out the routine use of medically important antibiotics in healthy animals.

BCRI member communities will continue to raise issues and press for action, especially in the area of removal of antibiotics in meat products. McDonald's is in the process of moving their corporate headquarters to downtown Chicago.

**Sr. Mary Ann O'Ryan, OSB**  
St. Scholastica Monastery, Chicago, Illinois

## Home Depot Shareholder Proposal on Diversity Receives 48% Support

At the May 17, 2018 annual meeting, the Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas, presented a shareholder proposal urging the company to prepare a diversity report on its workforce. The proposal asked the company to release an "equal employment opportunity (EEO) report to measure diversity among its associates." The proposal requested a diversity report made available to investors by September 2018.

Specifics of the shareholder proposal included:

- ❖ Include a chart identifying employees according to their gender and race;
- ❖ Include these statistics for the company's nine major job categories for the last three years;
- ❖ Provide a summary description of any affirmative action policies and programs, especially where women and minorities are underutilized;
- ❖ Describe policies and programs oriented toward increasing diversity in the workplace.

Diversity issues with Home Depot have been a part of the dialogue and shareholder work the Benedictine Sisters of Boerne and Trillium Asset Management have engaged in since 1998. In 2017, this proposal received 33.65% support.



Sourcing for this data appeared in the **Atlanta Business Chronicle**, "Shareholder proposal on diversity report receives surprising support, catches Home Depot's Attention" by Maria Saporta, May 17, 2018.



# Updates

## Civil Resistance — A 21st Century Vocation



"There is a sickness of the soul in our political life," as the Poor People's Campaign says, "and it will take all of us to heal it."

The blessing my religious community (Mount Saint Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas) gave me — as well as a long-time, hands-on involvement in justice issues — led me to the Poor People's

Campaign in Topeka for my first-ever **arrest**. A campaign support person and I drove to Topeka on two Mondays (May 14 and 21), and I was arrested around noon on May 21 for “occupying” a conference room at the office of Secretary of State Kris Kobach.

Kobach is the architect of voter suppression in Kansas as well as other states. Some 18,000 Kansans have been unable to register to vote because his regulations require a birth certificate or passport to do so. My work in Wyandotte County raised my awareness of his willingness to marginalize persons, especially from Spanish-speaking communities.

My hands back-to-back and handcuffed with a thick plastic tie, I was led from the conference room single file with 17 others whom I didn't know to a waiting bus. A crowd cheered us on. Individual processing (photos, fingerprinting, questioning, and paperwork), followed our time in the holding cell, where 14 women joined by a common cause got to know each other a bit. I'm hoping that the ten hours of detention will count as time served.

My civil disobedience became a vocation (a calling) within a vocation. There's an element of mystery, a spiritual dimension, to why I took this action. Many great persons have spent time in jail: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Daniel and Philip Berrigan, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Gandhi, and Mangari Maathai (a college friend of mine who won the Nobel Prize in 2004 for the tree-planting movement in Kenya).

The deportations going on right now in the United States divide family members. Parents are deported; children are put in juvenile detention centers and can't get out. Recently, within two weeks, 600 children were separated from their families. This evil cries out for resistance.

People tend not to understand civil disobedience. It is elusive to define. It is done publicly. It is done nonviolently. And people who do it expect consequences from the law. I believe the Poor People's Campaign, using civil disobedience, may be needed even more now than when Martin Luther King began it in 1967.

*Sr. Barbara McCracken, OSB*  
Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kansas

***Sr. Barbara community elaborated on her many other ministries: At age 78, Sister Barbara was by far the oldest resister in Topeka on May 21. Her ministry has included: PeaceWorks-KC member, professor at Donnelly College; staff member at Shalom Catholic Worker House for the homeless; prison ministry, assistant director of Keeler Women's Center, and corporate responsibility.***

## We Still Belong to the Paris Climate Agreement!

On December 12, 2015, representatives from 196 parties made an historic pact in Paris (The Paris Agreement) to adopt green energy sources, cut down on climate change emissions and limit the rise of global temperatures — while also cooperating to cope with the impact of unavoidable climate change. A summary of the goals of the agreement follows:

- ◆ Keeping global temperature rises "well below" 2°C (3.6°F);
- ◆ Limiting greenhouse gas emissions by human activity to levels allowing natural absorption beginning in 2050;
- ◆ Reviewing each country's contribution every five years;
- ◆ Providing "climate finance" for poorer countries to fund renewable energy.

The U.S. State Department officially informed the United Nations it would withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement on June 1, 2018, but the U.S. would continue to participate in United Nations climate change meetings during the withdrawal process. Because the withdrawal process from the Paris Agreement is a lengthy legal process, the United States cannot completely withdraw from the agreement until Nov. 4, 2020. Also because of the terms of the agreement, returning to it is a much simpler process by which a future president could have the U.S. back in the agreement in as little as 30 days.

Official withdrawal requires a formal process. Nov. 4, 2020 is the earliest date on which the U.S. can legally withdraw. Countries wishing to exit must first submit a document to the United Nations specifying their intent. However, this is permitted only after three years have passed since the agreement was originally ratified on Nov. 4, 2016. Thus, the U.S. cannot submit its written notice until Nov. 4, 2019. After that, the rules specify that the official withdrawal will occur exactly one year later.

The announcement by the President of the United States in June 2017 that the U.S. “has” withdrawn from the Agreement has sparked interest in reviewing its terms. Legally, the earliest date that a party may leave it Nov.4, 2020. The truth is that the U.S. still belongs to the Paris Climate Agreement.

Data for this article came from the following: Helen Briggs, "What is in the Paris climate agreement?," **BBC News**, 5/31/17; Camila Domonoske, "So What Exactly Is In The Paris Climate Accord?," **NPR**, 6/1/17; Chelsea Harvey, "Withdrawing from the Paris deal takes four years. Our next president could join again in 30 days." 6/5/17 **The Washington Post**.



## Recent Court Rulings: A Short History

Immigration has been at the forefront of political discussion for decades — a difficult topic because of its complexities and consequences in a nation founded on, and built by, immigrants. Courts have intervened in immigration reform throughout our history, but recent rulings have focused a major spotlight on the subject.:

- **In 1985**, El Salvadoran teenager, Jenny Lisette Flores, fled her country and tried to enter the U.S. to be with her aunt. Arrested at the border, Flores was placed in a juvenile detention center. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) refused to allow custody to her aunt because they would not release minors to “third-party adults.” The ACLU succeeded in its class-action lawsuit on behalf of her and other immigrant minors, and the Flores Agreement requiring timely release of minors was born.
- **January, 1997**, Following an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, the Flores Settlement — further restricting the government’s immigrant detention practices — was signed into law. Restrictions include release from detention without unnecessary delay (not more than 20 days) and placement in the “least restrictive” settings as possible.
- **April, 2013**: Judge Dolly M. Gee ordered immigration courts in Arizona, California and Washington to provide legal representation for immigrants with disabilities before immigration courts.
- **July, 2015**: Judge Gee, Federal District Court Judge for the Central District of California, ruled that two detention facilities in Texas (South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley and Karnes County Residential Center in Karnes City) did not meet minimal legal requirements of the Flores agreement.
- **April, 2018**: Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced a “zero tolerance” immigration policy for families or individuals apprehended by Border Patrol agents. This policy separated all children from the adults who brought them into the U.S, transferring all children to the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), after a short holding period.
- **June 20, 2018**: Facing mounting pressure for the administration’s treatment of undocumented minors, including holding them in cages away from their parents, President Trump halted family separations at the U.S./Mexico border.
- **June 26, 2018**: In San Diego, U.S. District Court Judge Dana Sabraw issued a temporary injunction against family separation that requires the government to return all children younger than 5 to their parents within 14 days and older children within 30 days.



- **July 10, 2018**: Judge Gee rejected the administration’s request to indefinitely detain immigrant families apprehended at the border, stating there was no legal grounds to alter the Flores Agreement.
- **July 16, 2018**: Judge Sabraw ordered the U.S. government to temporarily pause deportations of reunited families to allow attorneys time to debate whether the order should be extended.
- **July 27, 2018**: Judge Sabraw mandated that the Trump administration present a list of parents deemed by it to be “ineligible” for reunification — including those who have already been deported, those who have been released into the U.S. and those who were not reunited because of criminal history. This ruling resulted from the ACLU request, which is now offering pro-bono attorneys for legal assistance and help in finding parents whose whereabouts are unknown.
- **July 31, 2018**: Judge Gee again intervened after discovering that U.S. government officials gave psychotropic medication to migrant children in a Texas facility without seeking parental/guardian consent — a violation of state child welfare laws. In her ruling, Judge Gee ordered that all children held at the Shiloh Residential Treatment Center in Manvel, Texas, be removed except for children deemed by a licensed professional to be at “risk of harm” to themselves. Judge Gee forbade Shiloh personnel from using “unessential security measures” (e.g., denying children drinking water and prohibiting them from speaking privately over the phone).
- **September 7, 2018**: The Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services published a document on the **Federal Register**, outlining new regulations that would replace the Flores Settlement Agreement from 1997. Key proposals are:
  - Tighten the standards for releasing migrant children from detention;
  - Detain families in facilities not formally approved for licenses;
  - Give facilities broad “emergency” loopholes for not meeting standards of care;
  - Make it easier to revoke the legal protections for “unaccompanied” children.

The window closes Nov. 6, 2018 for comments on this new attempt to hold migrant children indefinitely. If your monastery or group would like to submit comments on the Flores Agreement proposed rule by the Homeland Security Department and the Health and Human Services Department contact our office:

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



# Crisis Continues

## DACA Rollback Faces Court Challenges

On March 5, 2018, the Trump administration officially rescinded DACA, the **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals** program — a program created in 2012 under President Obama to protect from deportation over 700,000 children who were brought to the United States without legal status. Attorney General Jeff Sessions had announced that the program would be terminated by March 5, 2018, unless Congress took action to save the policy. This decision to terminate included provisions that no new applications for this deferred status be allowed.

U.S. District Court Judge William Alsup stepped in on January 10, 2018, ordering the administration to resume accepting renewal applications from existing DACA recipients. According to an article by Dan Levine and Yegata Torbati of Reuters (1/09/18), Judge Alsup stated that the government did not have to process new applications from people who had never received protection under DACA.

Attorneys general from 15 states, as well as several advocacy groups, sued in the Federal District Court in Brooklyn, to block the DACA rollback. On February 13, 2018, Judge Nicholas Garaufis ruled in favor of the attorneys general and ordered the government to maintain DACA as it was before the administration decision to terminate the program. (Alan Feuer, **New York Times**, February 13, 2018).

The most significant court ruling since the Trump administration has announced the end of the DACA program came on April 24, 2018. It was delivered by U.S. District Judge John D. Bates of the District of Columbia. Judge Bates ruled that the termination of DACA had not

been fully explained and, therefore, could not be justified. He ordered the administration to allow immigrants who qualify for DACA to apply for work permits (to remain in the U.S.) even if those immigrants had never sought DACA status.

As reported by Julián Aguilar of the **Texas Tribune** on April 24, 2018, Judge Bates authorized a 90-day hold on the ruling so that the Department of Homeland Security could have “an opportunity to better explain its view that DACA is unlawful.”

On August 31, 2018, U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen, declined to halt the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Judge Hanen said that there were two issues that required him to deny the request to immediately halt the program: One was timeliness. He found that because Texas and its coalition of states (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina, and West Virginia) waited more than five years after the implementation of DACA, to file a lawsuit. In addition, Judge Hanen ruled that though the states could prove they were harmed by the continuation of DACA, mainly in costs of benefits to recipients, the potential consequences of ending DACA immediately were more harmful.

Sourcing for this article included:

Michael D. Shear, **New York Times**, August 31, 2018;  
Laura Muñoz Lopez, **Center for American Progress**, June 5, 2018).



### The Statistics — the Human Toll

After all of the boundaries set forth by the above rulings, the realities in the lives of children and families affected by the government’s “Zero Tolerance” policy defy logic. These are the human statistics as reported by Ross Ramsey in the **Texas Tribune** (9/10/18), “Analysis: An Old Headline Lingers on the Texas-Mexico Border”:

- 2,654 children were separated by the policy in early summer;
- 2,238 children have been reunited or released from custody;
- 416 children are still in custody due to the status of their parents (already released, still in custody, or location under review);
- Of those, 304 children are still in custody because their parents are deported;
- 199 adults have indicated a desire against reunification (number of children unknown);
- 9 of these parents or guardians are in federal custody;
- Of the 416 still being detained, 14 are toddlers.
- The State of Texas announced it will not fund the education of these children, insisting that the cost belongs to the Federal government.



### Immigrants Need Our Help at Our Northern Borders, Too!

In Erie, PA, because we are within 100 miles of the northern US border, we have a large Border Patrol station. And Erie is one of the places nationally where Border Patrol agents meet buses, board them and check passengers for documents. We know,

specifically, of one case where they arrested a woman from Honduras who lacked documents — a fact discovered because of this random search.

The Erie community is preparing “**Know Your Rights**” cards in five languages to distribute at the Greyhound bus station. We will hold a Silent Peace Walk, walking slowly, single file, around the building that houses our Greyhound Station on Wednesday, October 24 at 7:00 pm.

*Sr. Anne McCarthy, OSB*  
St. Benedict’s Monastery





## Member Updates



Sr. Henry Marie Zimmerman, OSB, and students pack boxes headed to families in Appalachia

*Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach... What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing. We know that it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale.*

*Clarissa Pinkola Estes*

### Ora et Labora Week at St. Benedict Monastery in Bristow, VA

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide Benedictine presence to the students at our all-girls' high school (Saint Gertrude's) in Richmond, VA, we offered an "Ora et Labora Week" for five students from August 5-10, 2018. The school just started an immersion program for its students, giving them three opportunities to serve: in Haiti, in El Paso and as part of our service program. The five students, Oblate Debby Fancher and I stayed at our guesthouse. The week offered a good mix of volunteer work in our ministries, spending time with our sisters, participating in prayer and enjoying recreation. Each day wrapped up with a time of group lectio. Taking the daily gospels, we reflected on the experiences of the day. The lectio process turned out to be a meaningful way of sharpening the students' awareness of the nudges God provides to notice the plight of the poor and show compassion.

Two key experiences were:

- ❖ Helping our Sister Henry Marie to pack 3 dozens boxes that will go to Appalachia. The students reflected on how much it touched their hearts to be part of providing for children and adults who do rely on our generosity.
- ❖ Promoting BEACON (our adult literacy program). The girls learned about the program and the stories of its students who are mostly immigrants from a variety of countries. The program promotion took place at National Night Out in a local park. The girls designed a display board and each practiced talking to people about the program. Several hundred people attended this event and many stopped at our table. Besides being challenged to approach others, our students experienced joy at being able to communicate about a program that will be of help to those who walked up to our table.

At the end of the week, one of the girls wrote, "Coming from a Baptist family, it made me feel good that you all accepted me. Whatever you have that made you all so peaceful, kind and caring, I want it, too, and to be able to give that away to others."

*Sr. Andrea Westkamp, OSB*

### "Nun Run" Students Learn about Corporate Responsibility

Five students from local college communities spent time with the Benedictine Sisters in Boerne, Texas, as well as several other religious communities in the San Antonio area. The purpose of this "Nun run" visit is to allow young women to visit various religious orders to get a flavor of the types of ministries being done by communities of women religious.

Brittany Kippes, Mallory McKee, Sophia Bibb, Katie Morrison, and Xuan Truong spent a day visiting the monastery, exploring the ministries there, and learning about the corporate responsibility work that the community has been engaged in for several decades. Sr. Susan Mika met with them to discuss the processes of the work and shared some of the accomplishments achieved in working with corporations.

One of the participants summed up the day's events this way: "We didn't know that nuns did things like this!"



Participants in the San Antonio Nun Run with Sr. Susan Mika

# Updates and Issues

## Health Care and Pharmaceutical Practices Meet the Shareholder Resolution Process

Challenging corporations to behave ethically in today's world is similar to the ancient proverb, "A thousand mile journey begins with one step." This is especially true in our work with the large pharmaceutical companies.

Beginning with the 2017 proxy season, the work of challenging these companies has yielded results: 35 resolutions filed at 11 companies, 10 resolutions already voted on, and some 15 resolutions settled.

The companies include Johnson & Johnson, Alkermes, Cardinal Health, Depomed, Endo, McKesson, Mallinckrodt, INSYS Therapeutics, Amerisource Bergen, and Pfizer. Most of these engagements center around Board organization, clawbacks, risk reporting, lobbying disclosure, and separating the CEO and board chair roles.

The work is not yet at the place where true dialogue and corporate behavior compel the companies to fix their roles in both the causes and cures of the opioid crisis and the high cost of medication. But, it's a start!

## Hope for the Great Pacific Garbage Patch

According to the Associated Press — as reported in an article in the **San Antonio Express-News** Sept. 9, 2018, Dutch engineer Boyan Slat has created a floating barrier to "corral plastic litter floating between California and Hawaii..." Slat's organization, Ocean Cleanup, set the barrier out to sea on Sept. 8, heading for the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a swirling mass of plastic twice the size of the State of Texas.

The goal of the project is to facilitate the removal of floating debris while not harming marine life. This is achieved because the barrier is U-shaped with a slightly tapered screen that traps the plastic but allows sea creatures to swim to safety below the screen.

Scientists believe that this Garbage Patch contains nearly two million pieces of plastic and other debris that the barrier eventually will begin to filter out and send back to land within a year. To underscore the immensity of this swirling "vortex" of plastic, Slat states, "One of our goals is to remove 50 percent of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in **five** years."

## Employee Layoffs Follow Corporate Tax Cuts

In the wake of the tax cuts Congress passed into law last December 2017, the bill was touted as an opportunity for corporations to pass tax savings on to their employees in the form of bonuses or pay increases. However, many companies have chosen a different path — keeping the tax breaks and then, paring down their work forces.

Here are a few examples, as reported by Eric Schaal in **Money and Career Cheat Sheet**, 4/12/18:


- ⇒ **Pfizer** — Has cut 300 research jobs in New England, jobs focusing on drug testing for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.
- ⇒ **AT&T** — In December, the company laid off hundreds of employees in Missouri and has continued announcing nearly 4,000 additional layoffs in 2018.
- ⇒ **General Motors** — 1,500 employees in Ohio have lost jobs.
- ⇒ **Kimberly-Clark** — The \$42 billion company has forecast the shuttering of 10 factories and layoffs of between 5,000 and 5,500 workers in 2018.
- ⇒ **Comcast** — This company's tax reform windfall was in the billions of dollars; yet, 500 employees were fired in December, the \$1,000 bonus became severance pay, and Comcast stockholders received dividend payouts of 21%.
- ⇒ **Harley-Davidson** — After receiving a 40%-tax benefit in December, Harley announced the closing of its Kansas City plant, with over 800 workers losing their jobs.
- ⇒ **Walmart** — After announcing that it would raise some minimum wages and give some employees bonuses, Walmart closed 63 Sam's Club stores employing thousands of workers, with NO notice; 1,000 were terminated at their corporate headquarters.
- ⇒ **Citibank** — Approximately 10,000 jobs over the next few years will be cut, according to bank officials.
- ⇒ **McDonald's** — As reported in **The Wall Street Journal**, the corporate president announced the company would restructure internally.
- ⇒ **Hewlett-Packard** — Its "restructuring" plan will lay off 5,000 workers by the end of 2019.
- ⇒ **Tenet Healthcare** — Several hundred jobs at Detroit Medical Center have been lost, part of nearly 2,000 jobs being eliminated.
- ⇒ **Carrier** — Received approximately \$7 million in tax savings from the tax cut, and then, laid off 215 workers, whose jobs have now gone to Mexican workers earning \$3 per hour.
- ⇒ **Tesla** — Nearly 3,600 employees have been laid off, with the company announcing a combined workforce layoff of 9%.
- ⇒ **Microsoft** — Hundreds lost their jobs in January.
- ⇒ **Schneider Electric** — Although a French company, its December tax cuts allowed its foreign investors to receive \$70 billion in the first year of the tax plan. Yet, 61 employees will be unemployed at its Indiana facility sometime during 2018.
- ⇒ **Coca Cola** — Dozens were laid off at a Georgia plant.
- ⇒ **Dunkin' Donuts** — Announced layoffs of 40 employees and a corporate decision not to fill 40 more jobs around the world.



# The Environment

## The Ubiquitous Plastic Straw — A Few Facts/Actions

It's there every time we order a drink ... that plastic coffee stirrer, the straw in our water or restaurant drink, the automatically-included straw in the fast food drive-thru, the ones we find attached to the juice boxes in our children's lunches. We don't ask for them; they are simply there. How many of them are there?

 According to research from **Project Refuse the Straw**, the United States and the United Kingdom each throw away nearly 500 million plastic straws per day. Their research further reports that this particular type of plastic takes roughly 200 years to decompose and the pieces that remain are environmentally toxic.

In an article in **MONEY** Magazine updated on July 18, 2018, Alix Langone lists the major companies that are banning plastic straws, as well as the timetables for those bans to be imposed. Included in this list are:

- \* **Starbucks** — intends to phase out the use of 1 billion straws in its 28,000 stores;
- \* **Hyatt** — by Sept. 1, 2018, straws and drink picks “will only be available by request” (see 8/28/14 Hyatt 2020 Environmental Sustainability Vision news release);
- \* **American Airlines** — in July, 2018, the company began transition to “biodegradable, eco-friendly straws and wood stir sticks” in airport lounges; by November, they will replace onboard straws and stirrers;
- \* **Alaska Airlines** — partnered with the non-profit group **Lonely Whale** in May to use “sustainable alternatives in its airport lounges and on all domestic and international commercial flights” starting in July;
- \* **United Airlines** — replacing plastic straws with bamboo on all flights beginning in November, 2018
- \* **Bon Appétit** — expects to have plastic straws and stirrers completely phased out in its restaurants by 2019;
- \* **SeaWorld Entertainment** — announced in June that shopping bags and plastic straws would be removed from all 12 theme parks;
- \* **Royal Caribbean** — by the end of 2018, all 50 cruise ships will stop offering plastic straws to passengers;
- \* **Marriott International** — by 2019, all its properties will have eliminated the nearly one billion plastic straws and 250 million stirrers annually distributed worldwide.

What can individuals do to assist in this effort? **The Last Plastic Straw** and **Plastic Pollution Coalition** have outlined ways for each of us to take action:

- 1) Say “no” to plastic straws. Request “no straw, please” whenever ordering a drink! Or, bring your own paper, bamboo, or other sustainable straw with you.
- 2) Change the culture of your own community by asking local restaurants to ONLY serve straws upon request. The Last Straw Project at [www.LastPlasticStraw.org](http://www.LastPlasticStraw.org) offers informational cards you could provide with your bill.



## Global Weirding Continues ...

In our last edition, we reintroduced “global weirding,” a concept first introduced in 2007 by Hunter Loving to illustrate that weather-related phenomena besides warmer temperatures were directly related to the effects of climate change. In the view of those warning us about changing weather patterns, hot temperatures are getting hotter, cold colder, wet weather wetter, dry drier, and violent storms are increasing in strength and frequency.

Judging by this summer's headlines, the “weirding” is continuing in ever more dramatic fashion. Some examples include:

- ♦ A tornado hit central Massachusetts on August 4 in Webster County, which followed two EF-1 tornadoes in the area on July 26. Tornadoes are extremely rare in New England.
- ♦ NBC News reporter Dennis Romero posted an article 8/5/18 that waters off the coast of Southern California reached a record high of 78.6°F at La Jolla, and the National Weather Service in San Diego recorded surface water temperatures of 80°F at Solano Beach.
- ♦ In **Newsweek** Magazine, David Magee recounted that, on July 24, Imperial, California, recorded that the falling rain registered 119°F. Ground temperatures for cities in the area included 127°F at Death Valley, 122°F at Palm Springs, and 121°F at Imperial.
- ♦ Adam Rogers, in a **Mother Jones** article dated 8/5/18 entitled “Fire Scientists Are Sure of Only One Thing: This Will Get Worse” (originally published by **Wired**), stated that more than 25,000 firefighters committed to battling 140 wildfires across the United States as of July 31. Eight deaths occurred in these fires to date.
- ♦ In an article by Ian Livingston in **The Washington Post** dated 7/27/18, data from Europe showed Europe experiencing its longest heat wave since 1976. Temperatures for July 26 included: Amsterdam (94.6°F), Rotterdam (97°F), and Arcen (100.8°F) — all three cities in the Netherlands, as well as Paris, France (97°F).
- ♦ At 6:58 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 12, Alaska's North Slope endured the strongest earthquake ever recorded in the region — magnitude 6.4, followed at 1:15 p.m. by a magnitude 6.1 quake.
- ♦ An Associated Press article appearing in the **San Antonio Express-News** dated Sept. 2 reported that French winemakers are experiencing early-onset grape harvesting they feel is a result of a steady rise in temperatures (2.2°F) over the past 30 years. This harvest now conflicts with weather patterns of seasonal rainstorms and hail.
- ♦ One year after Hurricane Harvey dropped 60.8 inches of rain on the Houston Metroplex, Hawaii's Hurricane Lane (8/28/18) lashed the Big Island with the second largest amount of recorded rainfall, 52.02 inches, according to **The Weather Channel's** reporter, Brian Donavan.
- ♦ To date, Hurricane Florence (landfall 9/14 /18) has produced record rainfalls, including 35.93 inches at Elizabethtown, NC. This total was reported on Sept. 17 and destined to increase.



# Welcome To Our New Members



## Christ the King Priory Schuyler, Nebraska

The Missionary Benedictine Monks of Christ the King have a three-fold mission in the work of the Church. We provide hospitality at [St. Benedict Center](#), we raise funds and awareness for our worldwide Benedictine network, especially for the poor and underprivileged in Africa, and we help the local Hispanic population with their [immigration](#) difficulties. These missions are our modest contribution to the great work of Christ the King establishing the Kingdom of God.

A most-timely part of the Priory's is the **El Puente Immigration Legal Services**, which provides quality, accessible and affordable legal immigration assistance and services focused on unifying immigrant families in a safe, welcoming and confidential environment. We work to unite and reunite families from all over the world.

Fr. Joel Macul, OSB, Prior, is the Priory's contact person for the Benedictine Coalition.

## *SACRED HEART MONASTERY, Yankton, South Dakota*

The work of the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery can best be seen by reviewing their three core values. These values flow from the community mission statement, the call of the Gospel, and the Rule of St. Benedict:

**AWARENESS OF GOD** Seeking God in our prayer together and savoring the word of Scripture; **listening** for the Divine voice in the stillness of our own hearts; **regarding** the ordinary with reverence: our work and prayer, people, places, material things, events.

**COMMUNITY Building** trustful and loving relationships with God, with one another, with planet earth, and with our deepest selves; practicing collaboration and cooperation; **learning** the daily arts of forgiveness and peacemaking.

**HOSPITALITY** Warmly **welcoming** others as Christ—those with whom we live as well as guests and strangers; **opening** our hearts and our doors to those pushed to the edges of life: the sick, the needy, the elderly; **sharing** communal and personal gifts in compassionate service to others.

“Regarding our decision to join the coalition,” writes Sr. Mary Kay Panowicz, “we did so to be in solidarity with other Benedictine Communities and to strengthen the impact we make in Catholic socially responsible investing.”



*Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel  
Sacred Heart Monastery*



## *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.

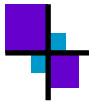
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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



## **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

BCRI — October 31, 2018 (7:30 a.m.)  
Orlando, Florida

## **THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 DONORS**

### **Our Member Communities:**

- **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 City, 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)
- **Sacred Heart Monastery**  
(Yankton, South Dakota)

### **Our Partner Community:**

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

### **Our Other Benefactors:**

- **St. Lucy's Priory**  
(Glendora, California)
- **Our Lady of Grace Monastery**  
(Beech Grove, Indiana)
- **House of Bread Monastery**  
(Nanaimo, B.C. CANADA)
- **Weston Priory**  
(Weston, Vermont)
- **St. John's Abbey**  
(Collegeville, Minnesota)

- **Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict**  
(St. Joseph, Minnesota)
- **St. Paul's Monastery**  
(St. Paul, Minnesota)
- **Benedictine Sisters of the Annunciation**  
(Bismarck, North Dakota)
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe Abbey**  
(Pecos, New Mexico)
- **Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict**  
(Rock Island, Illinois)
- **Benedictine Sisters Benevolent Association**  
(Duluth, Minnesota)
- **Glastonbury Abbey** — (grant)  
(Hingham, Massachusetts)
- **Conrad Hilton Fund for Sisters** —  
(grant for backpacks for immigrant families)
- **Gertrude Mika**  
(San Antonio, Texas)
- **Eugenia Schuler**  
(Kerrville, Texas)
- **Jennifer Bligh**  
(San Antonio, Texas)
- **Lady Ellen and Gerald Clark**  
(San Antonio, Texas)

*Thank  
You!*