



# Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

Spring 2019 — Issue 23

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## We Are Building Bridges

We are an Easter people. This means we continue in hope, even though there are clouds and storms. Things are hidden, and we can't know the future.

We are Benedictines. This means we continue to treasure stewardship and hospitality in a world that does not always raise up these values as essential.

We are human beings. This means that we look at all persons and see value.

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of a future full of hope, not for your detriment, but for your good. The Book of Revelation speaks of a "new heaven and a new earth."

As we view our world today, we remind ourselves:

- ✓ to lift up those falling down,
- ✓ to enhance the good that we know to be there,
- ✓ to build bridges in every place that we can,
- ✓ to find a positive vision as we speak truth to power.

We are raising our voices:

- ❖ To see the immigrant as "us", not "them". Most of us are immigrants; it's just a matter of which generation since our ancestors migrated.
- ❖ To review and act upon the issues related to human trafficking, human rights, climate change and gun violence.
- ❖ To question companies whose practices have led to discrimination in the work place, to illness through use of their products, to bullying through use of their technology.
- ❖ To include numbers in reports which reflect all the members of the workforce.
- ❖ To question how companies use their funds to lobby against regulations and policies that might be for the good of all, not just for the few.

"Benedictines of the sixth century modeled a stable structure for a society without a center...What can Benedictines of this century offer in a world which lacks a community conscience, a vision of the sacredness of creation, a commitment to the dignity of life? Our answer is monastic stewardship: that we use what we are and what we have for the transformation of culture because creation is God's and we are its keepers. We hold it in trust. We must remember always that the earth is not so much inherited from our parents, as borrowed from our children. We owe a debt to the next generation."

(From *"Upon This Tradition, Of All Good Gifts*, June 1980)

This is no small task. We cannot do **nothing**; we cannot do **everything**. In between, we find our sliver of what we can **do** in our circumstances to make a difference. St. Benedict was all about looking to see what monasteries could do locally. Today, our world shrinks with each news story or each email or each Tweet or each phone call. We are united in ways we never dreamed of in the past. How can we build on that unity?



We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.

*Maya Angelou*



# BCRI Annual Meeting Minutes

October 31, 2018 — Orlando, Florida

The annual meeting of the Benedictine CRI was held on October 31, 2018 at the RCRI national conference in Orlando with 23 RCRI members attending the meeting. The meeting began with a prayer "Prophets of a Future Not our Own."

## Welcome

Sister Rose Marie of Atchison opened the meeting welcoming all present. She invited all to introduce themselves to the group. She also distributed forms for all to sign in and update their contact information. Two new members have joined the coalition since last year's meeting: the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton, South Dakota and the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery in Villa Hills (Covington), Kentucky. Welcome!

All present were asked to share areas of concern for their community or region, as well as issues that they would like to discuss or focus on at our meeting. Sister Rita Marie Tofflemire of Norfolk, Nebraska spoke of a recent raid at a tomato plant in O'Neill, NE where a number of undocumented workers were detained. Concern for the immigrants welfare was shared by all.

## Shareholder Resolutions

Sister Susan Mika then reviewed the shareholder work of the past year and distributed a packet of information. She reminded all that she needs a list of stock held by each community who would like to file shareholder resolutions. Under the SEC regulations a minimum of \$2000 worth of shares needs to have been held for at least one year in order to file a resolution; however, Susan encouraged all to aim for \$5000 worth of stock in case the value of the stock fluctuates during the year.

The first year of filing a resolution requires that the resolution receive a minimum of 3% of the vote in order to bring the resolution back the second year. The second year it must receive 6% of the vote; the third year and every year thereafter the resolution must receive a minimum of 10% of the vote. During the 2018 proxy season ten resolutions received over 50% of the vote, with the Sturm Ruger resolution on gun violence receiving a high of 69% of the vote.

Sister Susan encouraged all to consider their areas of interest to get involved in filing shareholder resolutions.

## 2019 Focus Areas

Sister Susan spoke of other areas of focus at the recent ICCR "When No one is Watching" Special Event. Among these are the opioid crisis, climate change and gun violence.

Climate change is an ongoing concern as we experience the effects of climate change on our weather throughout the country. Sister Susan clarified that the United States cannot opt out of the Paris Climate Accord

until the day after the 2020 election.

Susan and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility Team continue to meet with the Walmart CEO and personnel. Walmart's minimum wage is now \$11 an hour. This was after raising this issue for two decades. The recent one-time bonus of \$1,000 was pro-rated. You received the full amount only if you had 20 years with the company.

Medicaid expansion efforts continue to be of concern in states that have not opted for expansion of Medicaid.

Concern for the many immigrants traveling through Mexico to the southern American border was shared. It seems that the purpose of the troop deployment of 5000 to the border is to create greater fear among the immigrants and those in the United States.

## Antibiotics in the Meat Supply Chain:

Susan has taken the lead in work with McDonald's regarding the elimination of antibiotics in their meat. McDonald's has eliminated antibiotics in their chicken and plan to do so in their beef by the end of 2018. Of the 25 fast food chains surveyed, 23 received an F with regard to antibiotics in their hamburger — with only Shake Shack and BurgerFi doing well.

Sister Lynn McKenzie participated in a phone conference call with top administrators from McDonald's. She was amazed at the work Sister Susan is doing and how much the McDonalds' representatives listen and take the shareholder requests seriously.

## Panel at RCRI

Members of ICCR, including Sr. Susan and Josh Zinner, the CEO of ICCR, participated in a panel at this RCRI meeting. He reflected on the work that we do together to influence corporate behavior, lifting up examples of how this work is making a difference.

## New Chairperson

Sister Rose Marie announced that Sister Andrea

Westkamp of Bristow has agreed to be responsible for the email list, setting up the annual meeting, and taking and distributing the minutes at our meetings. She will begin doing this for the 2019 meeting.

**Addendum:** Everyone thanked Sr. Rosie for all that she is and all that she has done for our CRI work. It is much appreciated!

*Rose Marie  
Stallbaumer, OSB*





# BCRI Annual Meeting Participants



## 2018 BENEDICTINE CRI ANNUAL MEETING PARTICIPANTS

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

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

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

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

**Federation of St.**  
Scholastica  
Lynn McKenzie, OSB  
President

**St. Scholastica Monastery**  
Fort Smith, Arkansas  
Ravi Thiagarajan, CFO  
Pat Bolling, OSB, Treasurer

**Benedictine Sisters of**  
Sacred Heart, Lisle, Illinois  
Helen Jilek, OSB, Treasurer

**Immaculata Monastery**  
Norfolk Nebraska  
Rita Marie Tofflemire, OSB  
Treasurer

**Sacred Heart Monastery**  
Yankton, South Dakota  
Mary Kay Panowicz, OSB  
Treasurer  
Jeanne Weber, OSB,  
President of St. Gertrude  
Federation

### Additional Attendees:

**Monastery of St. Gertrude**  
Cottonwood, Idaho  
Janet Marie Barnard, OSB  
Treasurer  
Karen Martin, Bookkeeper

**St. Mary Monastery**  
Jeff Streit, Finance Director

**St. Meinrad Archabbey**  
St. Meinrad, Indiana  
Fr. Patrick Cooney, OSB  
Canon Lawyer

**Benedictine Sisters of the**  
Annunciation  
Bismark, North Dakota  
Rosanne Zastoupil, OSB  
Treasurer

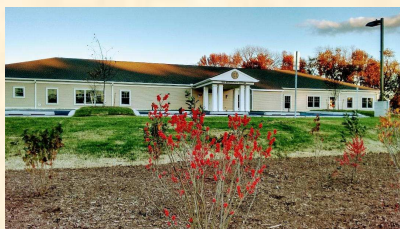
**St. Paul's Monastery of**  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
Catherine Nehotte, OSB,  
Treasurer  
Saint Joseph Abbey  
Jennifer Whitehouse, CFO  
Carla Graves, HR Director

## New Monasteries

### The Benedictine Sisters at Saint Gertrude Monastery

After 131 years, the Ridgley, Maryland Benedictines sold their monastery and outlying buildings to the Benedictine School.

With the monies obtained from the sale, the Sisters were able to purchase 3 1/2 acres of land on the grounds of Holy Family Parish and build a beautiful single-level monastery. It has 14 bedrooms with private bathrooms, and the entire building is handicap accessible. The chapel is small but more than adequate for our 14 voices. Even though we have downsized, our new home is warm and spacious and meets our needs. We feel blessed and are excited for what the future holds for us in Newark, Delaware.



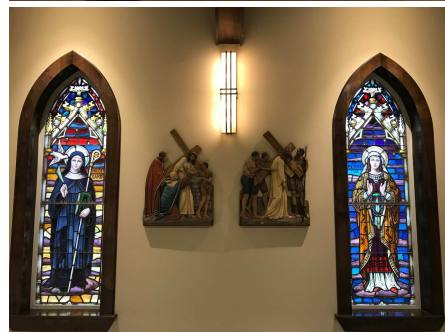
*Text: Sr. Mary Lou Robino*  
*Photo: Pat Peterson*

### St. Scholastica Monastery of Fort Smith, Arkansas

The Benedictine community at Fort Smith has moved into the new monastery. Pictures to the right include the chapel setting, as well as stained glass windows and stations of the cross.

The new 30,000-square-foot, single-story monastery contains a chapel, 26 bedrooms, a kitchen, a dining room, meeting rooms, offices, a library and a gift shop.

Congratulations to the St. Scholastica Monastery family in their new home.





# 2019 Shareholder Resolutions Filed

## ABBVIE

### *Report on Indirect and Direct Lobbying*

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## ALPHABET

### *Google Search in China*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

### *Human Rights Impact Policy*

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## AMAZON.COM

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

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

## AT&T

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosures - Climate*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

## BANK OF AMERICA

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure*

Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB

### *Drug Pricing Strategies and Incentives for Senior Executives*

Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

## CATERPILLAR

### *Business Activities in Conflict-Affected Areas*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX (filed with Bishop Brian Grieves)

## CELGENE

### *Drug Pricing Strategies and Incentives for Senior Executives*

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## CHEVRON

### *No Business with Governments Complicit in Genocide – Burma*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

### *Human Right to Water*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## COMCAST

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

## DOMINO'S PIZZA

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

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

## ELI LILLY

### *Drug Pricing Strategies and Incentives for Senior Executives*

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## EXXON MOBILE

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure – Climate*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

### *Independent Chair of the Board*

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## FACEBOOK

### *Separate CEO and Chairperson Role*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

## GENERAL MOTORS

### *Grassroots Lobbying Communication*

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX (with NY Comptroller's Office)

## HOME DEPOT

### *EEO-1 Disclosure*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## JOHNSON & JOHNSON

### *Anti-Competitive Practices (Opioid Coalition)*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

### *Report on How to Reduce High Prescription Drug Prices in USA*

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## JP MORGAN CHASE & CO.

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure – Climate*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

### *Report on Indirect and Direct Lobbying*

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia



# 2019 Shareholder Resolutions Continued

## McDONALD'S

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

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## MERCK & CO.

### *Drug Pricing Strategies and Incentives for Senior Executives*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore  
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## MYLAN

### *Board Risk Report*

### *Response to U.S. Opioid Epidemic*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

## PFIZER

### *Board Oversight – Drug Pricing*

Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

## PHILLIP MORRIS

### *Review Policies, Discourage Smoking Among Young People and Report*

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

## SOUTHWEST

### *Human Rights Policy - Withdrawn*

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL  
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX  
(withdrawal: company will work on further policies)

## TJX COMPANIES

### *Report on Inequities in Compensation due to Gender, Race, or Ethnicity*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica  
Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL  
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## UNITED PARCEL SERVICE

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure – Climate*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

## VERIZON COMMUNICATION

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure*

Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

### *Child Exploitation (filed with CBIS)*

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS

### *Greenhouse Gas Reduction in Line with Paris Goals*

Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica

## YUM! BRANDS, INC.

### *Greenhouse Gas Reduction – Renewable Energy*

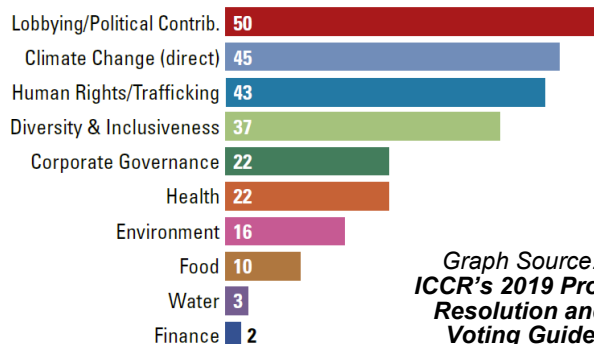
Benedictine Sisters – Mount St. Scholastica  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore



## Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility 2019 Proxy Resolutions

This year, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) members filed 250 resolutions at 163 companies (see chart below). This proxy season there was a surge in human rights-related proposals, 43 overall, with emerging themes that relate to digital rights and the growing influence of Google, Facebook and Amazon. Still other resolutions examine how companies with government contracts may be linked to human rights abuses as a result of U.S. immigration policies.

### Resolutions by Issue



Graph Source:  
ICCR's 2019 Proxy  
Resolution and  
Voting Guide

## Human Right to Water Proposal filed by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia against Chevron Corp.

Sister Nora Nash, Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia and Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, along with other Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) members, filed a proposal with Chevron Corp. calling on the company to report on its due diligence process to identify and address risks related to the Human Right to Water. This is the first time in ICCR's history that a proposal on Human Right to Water has been filed by ICCR members.

According to Sister Nora, "the Human Right to Water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water for personal and domestic uses. Yet today, more than 2 billion people are living without sufficient access to freshwater resources. As one of the largest oil and gas companies in the United States, Chevron is exposed to water-related risks, particularly those parts of its operations located in water-stressed and water-scarce areas."

The resolution asks Chevron to outline its human right to water impacts and identify plans to track the effectiveness of measures to assess, prevent, mitigate, and remedy adverse impacts on the human right to water.

Source: ICCR's 2019 Proxy Resolution and Voting Guide

# Net Neutrality/The Environment

## Net Neutrality advocates testified before Congress on the FCC's dismantling of the 2015 Open Internet Order

On February 1, 2019, former Federal Communications Commission (FCC) chairs Tom Wheeler and Michael Powell testified before House lawmakers from the Energy and Commerce Committee on the FCC's dismantling of the 2015 Open Internet Order.

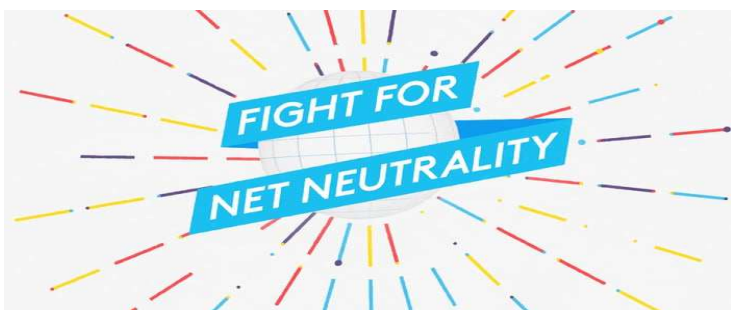
The Open Internet Order — which enacted net neutrality rules — classified the internet and mobile broadband as a public utility under the Title II designation, effectively subjecting it to heavier regulation from the FCC. This prohibited internet service providers (ISPs) from slowing down or speeding up content, or giving preference to one provider's content over another's on their networks.

The repeal in June revoked the Title II designation and returned it to Title I, effectively subjecting it to light-touch regulation under the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and allowing carriers to block, throttle, and prioritize content, which slows down access.

In 2018, the Big Four US broadband companies — Verizon, AT&T, Charter, and Comcast — collectively invested less in capital projects than they did in the prior year. This marks the first time in three years that there's been a drop, which is when net neutrality rules were put in place. Furthermore, the Big Four US wireless carriers were reportedly slowing down internet traffic, without telling customers, just months after the overturn. YouTube was found to be most targeted by carriers, followed by Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and the NBC Sports app. Moreover, Verizon came under fire in August for slowing data speeds, and in turn, access to emergency responders; this had especially dangerous ramifications in California, where firefighters were battling the largest wildfire in state history.

Overall, both sides of the argument appear to support restoring the FCC's rules prohibiting anticompetitive and harmful practices from ISPs, but they remain divided on title classification. Republicans introduced at least three legislative proposals that would restore the rules, but not under Title II. They generally agree on preventing ISPs from blocking, throttling, or zero-rating, which leads to more expensive wireless data plans for customers. Public sentiment against the repeal of net neutrality protections — 83% of US voters oppose the FCC's rollback of net neutrality rules — combined with statements by elected congressmen from both parties, indicates that formal legislation around net neutrality may be around the corner.

Source: **Business Insider**, 2/1/19



## Global Student Strike on Climate Change

Tens of thousands of students from 112 countries skipped school on March 15 in protest against government inaction on climate change. European students packed the streets of Madrid, Rome, Paris, Brussels and other cities for "Fridays for Future." Students in Washington, D.C., rallied outside the Capitol.

Demonstrations were also held in Sweden, U.K., Germany, Bangkok, South Korea, India and South Africa.

With Singapore's strict laws on public assembly, students planned a virtual campaign on social media as their contribution to the protests.

The strikes began in 2018 with a 16-year-old Swedish climate activist named Greta Thunberg who protested outside her parliament on school days. She has since

been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Fellow activists and government officials showed their support to these students and have encouraged them to keep fighting for change.

Source: Reuters, **The New York Times**, 3/5/19

Umair Irfan, **Vox**, 3/14/19

Photo (Left): Li-An Lim

Photo (Top Right): Jonathan Kemper



## Ways to Reduce Plastic Waste

These hints were recently included in a segment on MSN. Each of us making one or more of these choices can have a significant effect on the amount of plastic in our world.

### Ways to Reduce Plastic Waste

1. Buying in bulk and bringing your own containers cuts down the need for plastic packaging.
2. Bring reusable bags with you as you shop. Many countries and US cities have started to ban single-use plastic bags and/or have added a fee to those bags if needed.
3. Use less plastic when eating at restaurants. Don't take that plastic straw and ask for metal utensils. Places like Disney's Animal Kingdom have eliminated plastic straws and stirrers from their park and plan to continue this move to their other parks by mid 2019.
4. Say no to bottled water. Bring your reusable bottles, mugs or cups.
5. Pack your snacks in reusable containers that will last, such as glass Tupperware products.
6. Recycle responsibly. Make sure your plastics are clean of food and other non-recyclable products.

Source: Melanie Ewan, **MSN**, 2/21/19



# Plastics/Future Of Technology

## China's ban on plastics

For the past 3 decades, China has been the largest importer of the world's plastic waste. They, alone, have imported 45% of the earth's plastics over the past 30 years. In 2017, the Chinese government announced its new policy for 2018, "National Sword," which would ban 24 types of waste from entering the Chinese borders, including plastic imports. China's new ban caused the waste intake to move towards Southeast Asian countries. Malaysia received 456,000 tons of plastic waste within the first seven months of the new policy. This exceeded the 316,000 tons in 2017 and 168,500 tons in 2016.

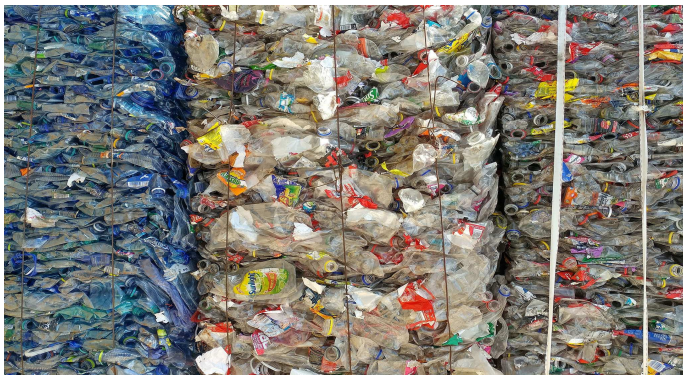
(Singaporean media Channel NewsAsia). After winning their election, the new Malaysian government announced an October 2018 policy that would ban plastic scraps and prevent factories from processing waste illegally. Thailand also announced a ban on such waste starting in 2021.

Studies have shown that only 9% of all plastics ever produced have been recycled. The other 91% is either incinerated, buried in landfills or thrown out into the environment or ocean. With waste piling up, the rest of the world has begun to panic.

Source: Yen Nee Lee, **CNBC**, 1/25/19

**National Geographic**, 6/20/18

Photo: Jenna Jambeck, **University of Georgia**



## A Whopping 91% of plastic isn't recycled

In an article in **National Geographic**, Laura Parker quotes the Great Britain Royal Statistical Society's **Statistic of the Year for 2018**: "Only 9% of all the plastic ever made has been recycled, and only 12% has been incinerated." That leaves 79% of the world's plastic discarded as pollutants in landfills and in the natural world. Since plastic takes over 400 years to decompose, most of this plastic still exists today.



Data collected through 2015 indicates that humans have produced 6.3 billion metric tons of plastic, and the predictions are that by 2050, there will be 12 billion metric tons of plastic in the environment and landfills. This tonnage represents 35,000 times the weight of the Empire State Building.

Source: Laura Parker, **National Geographic**, 12/10/18

## "Future" Technology is already here

### The future of grocery shopping

There is a Carrefour grocery store in The Mall of the Emirates in Dubai that is like something out of the future. When you walk into the store you grab a scanner, log into your account and start shopping. You scan items as you put them in your bags, and you check out before you leave the store with a debit or credit card. They even give you two reusable bags for new customers. That's it – long gone are the days of waiting in line while people fumble with coupons and wait for change. It seemed to run very smoothly while I was there. I think we will see more of this here in the U.S. as Amazon builds more of their new Amazon Go stores with similar features. [Editor's Note: Amazon plans to open 3,000 Amazon Go stores in the U.S. alone.]



### Singapore's smart city

Singapore is trying to become the first "smart city" in the world and they are in a unique position to do so. The country has quickly become a hub for finance and technology in southeast Asia. They are using super-fast internet and emerging technologies to change the way the city deals with everything from traffic to possible health issues such as a disease outbreak. This will change how the city implements self-driving cars, responds to emergencies and the plans for future urban development. I think countries all over the world will use the successes in Singapore as a blueprint to implement similar changes in their own cities in the future.



### The new buzzword in tech is 5G

5G promises to be one of the biggest changes to data technology in years. As with any new tech, all of the major carriers are focusing all of their marketing efforts to this new, much faster data option that will be slowly rolled out across the country. AT&T is under scrutiny and facing a lawsuit for marketing a 5Ge network that is not a real 5G network, just a souped-up version of their existing 4G LTE network. Once it is available in most major cities, it promises to change how we browse and stream on our phones but will also allow for up-and-coming technologies such as highly efficient autonomous car networks and even the ability for doctors and surgeons to perform operations from the other side of the world.



By E.J. Urbanczyk  
Former intern



# The Immigration/Humanitarian Crisis

## Trump administration is holding record number of migrant youths

The number of children in federally funded shelters and facilities has climbed to 14,600, up from approximately 9,200 when President Trump took office in 2017, Health and Human Services (HHS) officials said. The system's current capacity is 16,000 beds. A total of 50,036 unaccompanied minors were taken into custody after crossing the border in Fiscal Year 2018 (October thru September). In Fiscal Year 2019 (October through January), 20,123 unaccompanied minors were taken into custody.

The average length of stay for migrant children in HHS custody for the first four months of FY2019 was 89 days, compared to 60 days in FY2018, according to HHS data.

"Temporary shelters bill the government about \$750 per child per day," stated Mark Weber, a Health and Human Services (HHS) spokesman, "while permanent shelters charge about \$250." As of February 13, 11,500 children were in HHS custody.

Source: Arelis R. Hernandez,  
*The Washington Post*, 12/21/18

## Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) sheltered at Homestead Job Corps Site, Homestead Florida

In February 2018, additional temporary shelter beds for unaccompanied alien children (UAC) cared for by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) expanded to include the reactivation of the Homestead Job Corps facility. Between June 2016 and April 2017, HHS had sheltered over 8,500 UAC at Homestead. The community was notified of the reactivation, which will allow bed capacity to be increased from 1,600 beds to as much as 2,350 beds in increments of 250 depending on the need. Since opening in March 2018 just over 6,000 UAC have been placed at the site and approximately 4,450 have been discharged to a suitable sponsor. As of February 13, 2019, there were almost 1,600 UAC, ages 13-17, residing at Homestead. **No children were transferred to Homestead from the temporary influx shelter recently closed in Tornillo, Texas.**

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,  
*Fact Sheet: Unaccompanied Alien Children sheltered at Homestead Job Corps Site, Homestead, Florida*, 2/13/19

## Interfaith Welcome Coalition Backpack Ministry

In 2018, the Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment received a grant from Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters. With the funds, we were able to donate \$18,000 to the Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC) Backpack Ministry. This donation allowed IWC to purchase 1,575 backpacks. Each backpack (with a few necessities) helps the immigrant family on the next part of the journey.

Location: San Antonio, TX	Backpacks Given in 2018
Bus Station	14,180
Airport	7,942
Total	22,122



## Proposed education process at Family Residential Centers

According to a published document by the Homeland Security Department and the Health and Human Services Department, on September 7, 2018, the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas has 2,400 beds, Berks has 96 beds, and the Karnes County Residential Center in Karnes County, Texas has 830 beds. The combined capacity of the three Family Residential Centers (FRCs) totals 3,326 beds.

Educational services are provided at the Berks and Karnes FRCs at a variable cost per-student/per-day. The cost at Karnes is \$75 per-student/per-day, and at Berks, the cost is \$79 per-student/per-day. The fixed monthly cost for educational services at Dilley is \$342,083, which is not dependent on the number of students per day.

Source: "**Apprehension, Processing, Care, and Custody of Alien Minors and Unaccompanied Alien Children**", A Proposed Rule by the Homeland Security Department and the Health and Human Services Department, 9/7/18

## U.S. Mexico Border

- On November 25, 2018, the San Ysidro Port of Entry was shut down, as hundreds of Central American migrants protested along the border. According to the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, local merchants lost an estimated \$5.3 million in sales after this port of entry was closed for only five hours.
- On March 29, 2019, the administration threatened to close the southern border if Mexico doesn't stop all immigrants from entering the U.S. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, nearly \$1.7 billion of goods and services flow across the border daily.
- According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP), in FY 2018, 396,579 individuals were apprehended at the southern border. Within the first five months of FY 2019 (Oct.-Feb.), the total reached 263,044. According to CBP, by March 27, total apprehensions for the month reached 90,525. The number of apprehensions is expected to reach over 100,000 once all data for March is gathered.

Sourcing: Multiple *New York Times* articles

## Use of emergency powers to build border wall

A coalition of 16 states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Virginia) challenged President Trump in court over his plan to use emergency powers to spend billions of dollars on his border wall. The suit, filed in Federal District Court in San Francisco, argues that the president does not have the power to divert funds for constructing a wall along the Mexican border because Congress controls spending. On Tuesday, Feb. 26, the House voted 245-182 to overturn President Trump's declaration of national emergency. The Senate also voted to overturn the declaration of national emergency with a 59-41 vote Thursday, Mar. 14, prompting the President to issue his first veto Friday, Mar. 15. This veto rejected the vote in Congress to overturn the President's national emergency declaration.

Source: *The New York Times* by Charlie Savage and Robert



# at the U.S. Mexico Border Continues

## Border at 'breaking point' as more than 76,000 unauthorized migrants cross in a month

More than 76,000 migrants crossed the border on February, 2019, an 11-year high. The nation's top border enforcement officer painted a picture of processing centers filled to capacity, border agents struggling to meet medical needs and thousands of exhausted members of migrant families crammed into a detention system that was not built to house them — all while newcomers continue to arrive, sometimes by the busload, at the rate of 2,200 a day. More than 50,000 adults are currently in ICE custody.

Source: Caitlin Dickerson, *The New York Times*, 3/5/19

## This is how much it costs to detain an immigrant in the United States

According to the Department of Homeland Security FY2018 budget, on average, it cost \$133.99 a day to maintain one adult detention bed. The cost to maintain a family bed, which keeps mothers and children together in a family residential center, costs around \$319 a day.

As children were separated from their parents due to the "zero-tolerance" policy, "tent cities" were built in the desert in Tornillo, Texas, to hold thousands of separated children. The cost of those beds was \$775 per person per night, according to the Health and Human Services Department.

Source: Jaden Urbi, *CNBC*, 6/20/18

## Congress's deal on immigration detention, explained

Congressional negotiators reached an agreement on Feb. 11 to prevent a second government shutdown over funding for the border wall. The deal provides funds for \$1.375 billion in physical barriers along the border, far less than the \$5.7 billion originally requested. Furthermore, the agreement funds detention beds for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

According to congressional aides, the deal is designed to get ICE to reduce the number of immigrants in detention by Sept. 30 to 40,520, the level authorized by Congress last year. To give ICE time to meet that goal, though, a congressional aide told Vox that Congress' funding allows ICE to detain an average of 45,274 immigrants between now and the end of September.

In the new bill, Congress is no longer setting limits on how many people are in immigration detention on any given day. Instead, it funds an "average daily population" of detainees, allowing ICE the discretionary ability to spend more money to detain more people when needed and spend less to detain fewer. Since March 2018, ICE has been instructed to keep an "average daily population" of 40,520 beds. On January 6, that number had jumped to 46,492 — and by February 6, it was 49,057.

Source: Dara Lind, *VOX*, 2/12/19

## Family separation crisis

On March 9, 2018, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in *Ms. L v. ICE* filed suit against federal immigration officials in an effort to reunite an asylum seeker (referred to in the lawsuit as anonymous plaintiff Ms. L) and her daughter who were being held at separate detention facilities.

On June 26, 2018, Judge Dana Sabraw ordered the Federal government not only to stop separating families but to reunite the children with their parents. To do that, the U.S. Government had to identify the number of separated children who were in its care. That number, about 2,737 as of December 2018, is what is currently being cited as the number of children who have been separated from their parents or legal guardians.

Judge Sabraw's order only applied to children who were actually in Health and Human Services (HHS) custody on June 26, 2018. It did not apply to children who had already been released. Because HHS can't actually provide the number of children separated at the border that were released before June 26, it's impossible to review records to

determine exactly where the separated children went.

On March 9, 2019, Judge Sabraw ruled that his authority also applies to any parents who had been separated from their children at the border on or after July 1, 2017, even though his order previously applied only to parents whose children were in custody on June 26, 2018.

On April 5, 2019, the Justice Department said in a court filing that it will take up to two years to review about 47,000 cases of unaccompanied children taken into government custody between July 1, 2017 and June 25, 2018, the day before Judge Sabraw halted the general practice of splitting families.

Sources: Dara Lind, *VOX*, 1/17/19; Elliot Spagat, *Associated Press*, 3/8/19 & 4/7/19



*This photo is from the Gateway Bridge in Brownsville. This is the international marker site. This kind of wire is also on top of the covered pedestrian walkways on the U.S. side and on the "fence" along the Rio Grande River in Brownsville. This is the "welcome" our government offers to those visiting our country and, even, to U.S. citizens who are returning to their own country.*

## Detention Beds for Immigrant Families Nearly Empty

Detention Center Location	Detention Center Capacity	Detention Center Occupancy as of April 8, 2019
Dilley, TX	2,400 mothers and children	499 mother and children
Karnes City, TX	1,158 family members	25 family members
Berks, PA	96 beds	9 family members

There is a fixed cost the government pays contractors who operate the detention centers, which is not dependent on the number of filled/empty beds.

Source: Julie Small, *KQED.org*, 4/12/19

# Human Rights/Gun Control



Jorge Humberto Martinez Jr.  
and Rachel Huron

## Triangle Shirtwaist Fire

The Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York City employed 600 workers, mostly young immigrant women, to work in cramped lines of sewing machines for 12-hour days. On Mar. 25, 1911, a fire broke out, killing 145 employees.

This tragedy brought attention to the factory's sweatshop conditions and led to the development of laws and regulations that protected the safety of workers.

In early March 2019, the students of St. Mary's University Theatre Department produced the stage version of the Triangle

Shirtwaist Factory Fire Project, bringing attention to the poor labor conditions of the employees of the 1911 fire and how they compare to the conditions of today's workers.

Source: **St. Mary's University Panel Discussion** 3/4/19

## 25,000 Workers Strike at Mexican Border Factories

About 25,000 workers staged a mass walkout at 48 maquiladora assembly plants in the border city of Matamoros Jan. 25, 2019, demanding higher wages. Minimum wage for maquiladora workers in border towns like Matamoros, which has about 130 factories directly south of Brownsville, Texas, is about \$9.20 USD a day or \$1.15 an hour. Workers were pushing for a 20% raise and a one-time bonus of about \$32,000 pesos, \$1,649 USD at current exchange rates. The labor strife comes on the heels of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's promise to double the minimum wage in communities along the U.S. border to \$176.2 pesos a day (\$9.07 USD), from \$88.36 pesos. The new border minimum wage is higher than the prevailing minimum in the rest of the country, about \$5.35 USD per day. (As of March 6, 2019 the exchange rate is \$19.41 Mexican pesos to \$1 USD).

Source: **Associated Press**, 1/26/19

## \$800 Million in Taxpayer Money Went to Private Prisons Where Migrants Work for Pennies

A **Daily Beast** investigation found that in 2018 alone, for-profit immigration detention was a nearly \$1 billion industry underwritten by taxpayers. As of Oct. 20, 2018, ICE detained an average of 44,631 people daily. ICE also stated that, as of Dec. 8, 2018, its daily average is 44,892 people. Its FY 2019 budget request anticipates detaining 52,000 people daily.

For the 19 privately owned or operated detention centers for which **The Daily Beast** could find 2018 data, ICE paid an estimated \$807 million. The 18,000-person capacity of these prisons means that for-profit prisons currently imprison about 41 percent of the 44,000 people by ICE detains. The 10 GEO Group facilities that had pricing data for charged an average of about \$101 per prisoner per day, compared to ICE's overall projected \$121.90 average daily rate for adult beds. In November, GEO Group reported expected earnings of \$2.3 billion this fiscal year, an increase of nearly 1.8 percent from the \$2.26 billion it reported in 2017 and up 5.5 percent from the \$2.18 billion it earned in 2016. ICE's internal detention standards set pay for "voluntary" immigrant labor at "at least \$1.00 (USD) per day.

Source: **Spencer Ackerman, Adam Rawnsley, The Daily Beast**, 12/27/18

## Bump-stock ban enacted by Trump administration can stand, federal judge rules

U.S. District Judge Dabney L. Friedrich ruled Feb. 25 that, since bump-stocks perform the same function as machine guns, they should be banned under federal law. The ban went into effect March 26. On Feb. 27, the House approved the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, prohibiting a firearm transfer between private parties unless a licensed gun dealer, manufacturer, or importer first takes possession of the firearm to conduct a background check. The prohibition does not apply to certain firearm transfers, such as a gift between spouses, but it represents the first gun control legislation passed by the House in eight years. A second bill, called the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019, gives the FBI more time to conduct background checks on gun purchasers. Passed on February 28, it expands the background check period to ten days, with the potential to be extended another ten. Currently, a gun seller only has to wait three business days for investigators to conduct this check.

Source: **NPR**, 2/26/19 & 2/27/19



## Dick's Sporting Goods Ditches Guns Despite Declining Sales

In an earnings call on March 13, CEO Edward Stack of Dick's Sporting Goods announced that the sporting goods retailer would stop selling firearms at 125 locations — approximately 17% of its US stores. Indoor batting cages, as well as boating and baseball sections, will eventually replace the firearm sections.

This stance (the removal of guns from nearly 1/6th of Dick's 729 stores) is not unprecedented. After the Parkland, Florida shooting last year, CEO Stack announced the removal of assault-style weapons and high capacity magazines from all Dick's stores — vowing they would never be carried again. An additional policy change restricted gun sales only to people over the age of 21. Vehement backlash from the NRA, a revocation of its membership to the National Shooting Sports Foundation and blacklisting from some of the country's largest gun manufacturers such as Mossberg and Springfield followed this policy change.

Source: **Patrick Grubbs, Triple Pundit**, 3/15/19



## In New Zealand, broad support for ban on assault weapons following massacre

On Thursday, March 21, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced New Zealand's ban on all military-style semiautomatic weapons capable of being used with a detachable magazine that holds more than five cartridges, along with all high-capacity magazines. Additionally, a program to "buy back" the banned weapons of war will remove existing weaponry from circulation. Gun owners who do not comply will be fined. Since New Zealand has no gun registry, the government cannot assess how many weapons fall into the banned categories, but estimates suggest about 13,500 firearms would cost between 100 million to 200 million New Zealand dollars (\$70 million and \$140 million USD) to buy them back.

Source: **Anna Fifield, The Washington Post**, 3/21/19



## New Ministry and New BCRI Member

### Our Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment Ministry

After recently "retiring" from my profession as a nurse for forty-four years, I was asked to take on the role of assisting with BCRI co-filing on behalf of my community. Of course, I agreed to this request, even though I knew it would be a whole new ball game for me. I immediately tuned into conference calls with filers, other co-filers, and companies with an "I'm going to just listen and not say a word, because I know nothing" attitude. As I listened, I was amazed at the positive energy expressed for the advocacy of responsible investment. I have had phone conversations with a couple of filers expressing their gratitude for co-filing on a resolution for which they cared so deeply, and I could definitely feel their passion for what they were trying to accomplish.

Part of our community's current vision plan states, "We believe that the integrity of our relationships witnesses unity to a divided world. This calls us to be in right relationship with God, with our sisters, with all people, and with all creation." Our partnership with the BCRI ministry keeps us in touch with the world. Through prayer, awareness, and advocacy, we are able to speak in support of justice on so many levels. I share all of Sister Susan Mika's updates and co-filing results with my community. They take the updates seriously and let me know they appreciate these awareness opportunities. Intercessions are frequently offered at Vespers. Our participation in this responsible ministry reminds me of a quote by Mother Teresa: "We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love."

*Sister Priscilla Cohen, OSB*  
Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, Alabama

*We need JOY as we  
need air. We need  
LOVE as we need  
water. We need  
each other as we  
need the earth to  
share.*

*Maya Angelou*

*We cannot all do  
great things, but  
we can do small  
things with great  
love.*

*Mother Teresa*

### Welcome Our Newest Member: St. Walburg Monastery, Covington, Kentucky



We, the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, faithful to our monastic profession, seek God in community, prayer and work. We celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ and serve him in all God's people, the young and the old, the sick and the poor, the stranger and the guest. Community life is a priority for Benedictine women. Living in community forms us, supports us in our search for God, gives us strength and keeps us faithful to the monastic tradition. The Rule of Benedict speaks about establishing "a school of the Lord's service." Community life at St. Walburg Monastery is such a school. It is the place where we listen to one another and come together to learn about God's ways with us.

Benedictine CRI members look forward to working with the St. Walburg community on corporate responsibility issues that strengthen the Benedictine values we profess.

Banner created by  
Sr. Emmanuel Pieper, OSB



### *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, Nina Martinez, 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

**+ Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI)** — September 30 - October 4, 2019, Dallas, Texas

• **BCRI** — Meeting will be during RCRI meeting in Dallas, Texas

**+ Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)** — October 28 - November 1, 2019 New York, New York

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 DONORS

### Our Member Monasteries:

- **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)
- **St. Walburg Monastery**  
(Covington, Kentucky)
- **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.)

- **St. Gertrude Monastery**  
(Newark, Delaware)
- **Immaculata Monastery**  
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- **Mount Saviour Monastery**  
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- **Benedictine Sisters of Florida**  
(St. Leo, Florida)
- **Christ the King Priory**  
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- **Monasterio Pan De Vida**  
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- **Mother of God Monastery**  
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- **Sacred Heart Monastery**  
(Yankton, South Dakota)

### Our Partner Community:

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(Leavenworth, Kansas)

### Our Benefactors:

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- **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)

*Thanks*