



Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

Fall 2020 — Issue 26

During the Pandemic, Going Forward toward a More Just World

At the beginning of 2020, who imagined where we find ourselves today? There are so many things we have done in this COVID-19 pandemic that, in other times, would seem unthinkable. Monasteries have rarely, if ever, closed their doors to visitors. Monastery members are always thinking about others. Monastery ministries are serving the poor, the forgotten, those in need. In many ways, we have had to re-think these foundations and adapt to these times. St. Benedict would be pleased that we are adapting, as he calls for in The Rule, when he made allowance for a change in the work/sleep/prayer schedule when needed.

In the world of corporate responsibility, we had to re-imagine our work, too. ZOOM meetings have become our primary method of interfacing — with our staff, our colleagues and the company representatives — this was a first. In the 2020 proxy season, many of the corporations had “virtual” annual shareholder meetings where we had to present shareholder resolutions over the phone — this was a first. In October, our national Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) fall meetings/major fundraiser were by ZOOM — this was a first.

Forces outside of ourselves continued to impact our actions. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued rule changes on September 23 which will impact our ability to file resolutions for the 2022 Proxy Season. We continue to fight these changes. Many of our Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment (CRI) members and friends wrote letters in February, urging that these changes NOT be implemented. More information is on page 4.

Immigration issues have not taken a holiday during COVID-19. Many court rulings and government actions continue to impact those seeking to enter our country and apply for asylum. The borders with Mexico and Canada are closed, except to essential travel.

We find ourselves in the midst of a national election process and a census process — both will impact the future for years to come.

Pope Francis recently released the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, continuing to raise his voice and pen to urge the peoples of the world to work together to find nonviolent solutions to racism and climate change. He urges us to imagine new ways of acting post-pandemic — Dark Clouds over a Closed World.

As we went to print the newsletter, we received news that Sr. Mary Ann O’Ryan, treasurer, died. Our sympathies to the Sisters in Chicago. As part of the Benedictine CRI, Sister worked tirelessly on our behalf to bring about a more just world, attending many shareholder meetings and events to represent us. May she rest in peace!

We do not know what the next months will bring. We do know that we will continue to raise questions with the pharmaceutical companies on production of vaccines, the cost of vaccines, the equitable distribution of the vaccines in the USA and around the world. These actions will help determine when life as we knew it can be re-imagined.

It will be a busy time. Our drop of water matters. May our work flow out to a hurting world.

Not everything
that is faced can
be changed, but
nothing can be
changed until it is
faced.

James Baldwin



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2020 Shareholder Actions

ABBVIE

Executive Compensation and Drug Pricing Risks — Feasibility Study — 24.38%

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

ALPHABET

Report on Government-Mandated Content Removal Requests — 12.90%

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Child Exploitation Online — Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

AMAZON.COM

Executive Pay — Incorporate Diversity and Sustainability Metrics — Omitted

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Human Rights Impact Assessment — 31%

Benedictine Sister of Baltimore

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

AMGEN

Executive Compensation and Drug Pricing Risks — Feasibility Report — Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

AQUA AMERICA, INC.

Gender Identity Non-Discrimination Policy — Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

BLACKROCK, INC.

Proxy Voting Policies Related to Climate Change — Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

BOEING

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate Change — 32.50%

Benedictine Sisters — Chicago, IL

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB

Independent Board Chair — 44.60%

Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

CATERPILLAR

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate Change — 33.54%

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

Benedictine Sisters, Cullman, AL

CHEVRON

Evaluation of Human Rights Practices — 17%

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate Change — Omitted

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Report on Plans to Align Operations with Paris Agreement — Omitted

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

COMCAST

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate Change — 26.40%

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate Change — 42.44%

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

EASTGROUP PROPERTIES

Gender Identity Non-Discrimination Policy — Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

EXXON MOBIL

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate Change — 37.50%

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Report on Plans to Align Operations with Paris Agreement — Omitted

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

FACEBOOK

Independent Board Chair — 19.50%

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

GENERAL MOTORS

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate Change — 33%

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

GILEAD SCIENCES, INC

Independent Board Chair — 43.53%

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

GOLDMAN SACHS

Report on Measuring GHG Footprint of Lending Activities — Withdrawn

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

HOME DEPOT

Workforce Diversity Report — 35.82%

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

INTERNATIONAL FLAVORS AND FRAGRANCE

Gender Identity Non-Discrimination Policy — Withdrawn

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

MARATHON OIL

Develop Strategy to Reduce Contributions to Climate Change — Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

2020 Shareholder Actions

J. P. MORGAN CHASE & CO.

Project Financing Related to the Arctic and Canadian Oil Sands — 15.18%

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica
Proxy Voting Policies Related to Climate Change — Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Report on Reducing GHG Emissions Associated with Lending — 49.60%

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

JOHNSON & JOHNSON

Independent Board Chair — 41.80%

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

MERCK & CO., INC.

Report on Allocation of Corporate Tax Savings — 3.30%

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Senior Executive Incentives — Integrate Drug Pricing Risk — Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

PFIZER

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Pharma — 20.60%

Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

PHILLIPS 66

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate Change — Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

TJX COMPANIES, INC.

Consider Pay Grades When Setting CEO Compensation — 9.40%

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Recruitment and Forced Labor — Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

VERIZON COMMUNICATION

Child Sexual Exploitation Online — Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS

Senior Executive Incentives — Integrate Drug Pricing Risks — Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

WELLS FARGO & COMPANY

Report on Reducing GHG Emissions Associated with Lending Activities — Withdrawn

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL



Catalyzing Corporate Change 2020

Of the 112 proposals that went to a vote, 10 achieved majority votes, consistent with 2019 performance. A full 65 proposals, or 58%, achieved votes of 25% or greater. Majority votes include:

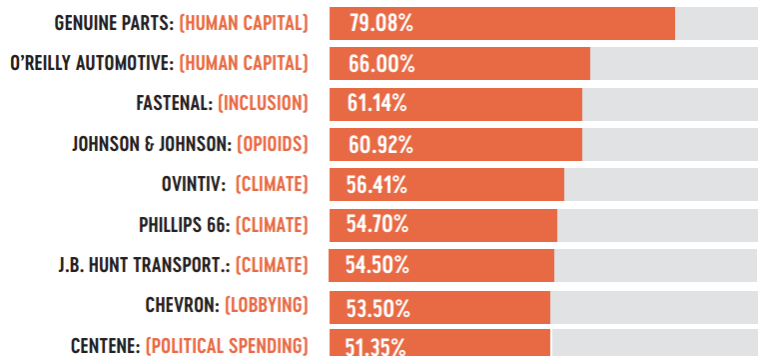
- **79.08% — Genuine Parts** Human Capital Management Disclosure
- **66% — O'Reilly Automotive** Human Capital Management Disclosure
- **61.14% — Fastenal** Workforce Diversity Report
- **60.92% — Johnson & Johnson** Board Oversight -Risks Related to the Opioid Crisis
- **56.41% — Orintiv (formerly Encana)** Disclose GHG Reduction Targets
- **54.70% — Phillips 66** Assess Risks of Expanding Operations in Flood-Prone Areas
- **54.50% — J.B. Hunt Transport Services** Report on Plans to Align Operations with Paris Agreement
- **53% — Chevron** Climate lobbying
- **52% — McKesson** Lobbying
- **51.35% — Centene** Political Contributions

In addition, **71%** of independent shareholders (**15.2%** including **JBS SA**-controlled shares) voted for the **Pilgrim's Pride** water pollution resolution. The two highest votes so far this seasons - at **Genuine Parts** and **Fastenal** - were for resolutions addressing workplace inclusiveness.

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, 7/28/2020

2020 MAJORITY VOTES

ICCR member proposals accounted for nearly half of all ESG proposals receiving majority support. The two highest votes so far this season were for proposals addressing human capital management.



Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, 7/28/2020

SEC Ruling and Impact

SEC Rule Changes Will Block Shareholders' Ability to File Proxy Proposals

On September 23, in a 3-2 vote, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) announced the imposition of new rules that will deprive many shareholders of the right to submit proposals to be voted on at U.S. public companies. The SEC amended Rule 14a-8, also known as "the shareholder proposal rule," to significantly raise the ownership thresholds required to file and to resubmit proposals. In addition, the new rules make it much more difficult to refile a proposal that has been voted on. New ownership and resubmission thresholds are intended to restrict shareholders from holding companies accountable on issues like climate, diversity and worker rights which impact long-term share value. The changes to Rule 14a-8 will disenfranchise investors and shift power to company CEOs and management.

"The amendments weaken the voice of investors and jeopardize faith in the fairness of U.S. public capital markets by making the filing process more complicated, constricting and costly," said Amy Borrus, Council for Institutional Investors' Executive Director. "The result will be fewer shareholder proposals — and that is precisely the goal of the business lobby that pressed the SEC to make these changes. Simply put, CEOs and corporate directors do not like being second-guessed by shareholders on environmental, social and governance matters."

Susana McDermott, *ICCR*, 9/23/2020
Rosemary Lally, *Council for Institutional Investors*, 9/23/2020
The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment (US SIF), 9/23/2020

"The new rule guts the existing shareholder proposal process, which has long served as a cost-effective way for shareholders to communicate their priorities and concerns to management, with little economic analysis supporting the needs for these substantial changes."

Josh Zinner, CEO of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

SEC Rule 14a-8 Key Words:

- ♦ **Aggregation:** Process of allowing shareholders to combine their holdings to meet the SEC requisite amount of shares necessary to be eligible to submit a proposal.
- ♦ **Engagement:** Mutually agreeable contact between two parties that takes form through a variety of communication methods, including email and letter exchanges, phone (or video) calls, and individual (in-person) meetings.
- ♦ **Momentum Requirement:** Refers to the exclusion of proposals that have historically garnered low levels of support.
- ♦ **Resubmission Thresholds:** Ability to submit a resolution based on the percentages established by the SEC [5% first year vote, 15% second year vote, 25% third year vote], before the proposal goes to the proxy ballot.
- ♦ **Proxy Ballot:** Document that describes the issues to be voted on during the shareholder meeting.

Summary of Final Rule 14a-8 Amendments

Chart courtesy of Tim Smith, Director of ESG Shareowner Engagement from Boston Trust Walden Company

Topic	Prior Rule	Final Rule
Timing		New rule applies to proposals filed for 2022 proxy season
Ownership/Duration	\$2,000 in shares held for one year	1 year \$25,000 2 year \$15,000 3 year \$2,000 Existing \$2,000 share holdings purchased by November 2019 are grandfathered for filing purposes. (Must have held for a year as of 60 days from federal regulation publication). New purchases are subject to the new dollar and time holding requirements.
Aggregation to reach filing threshold	Permissible	Not permissible to aggregate; existing right is eliminated.
Resubmission thresholds	3% first year vote 6% second year vote 10% third year vote	5% first year vote 15% second year vote 25% third year vote
Momentum	None	NOT ADOPTED
Engagement	None	Between 10-30 calendar days provide times available to meet. Individual shareholders, not representatives, must state availability to meet. Entities may or may not need to use a representative. Co-filer can designate lead filer as representative.
Representation	Flexible requirements to document representation in no-action process	Provide documentation to make clear the representative is acting on the shareholder's behalf. Special rule for entities.
One proposal rule	One proposal per proponent per company	Bans representatives from filing multiple proposals "by proxy."

By the Numbers

2020 Census Deadlines Unclear

According to the U.S. Constitution, a count of all persons living in the United States on Apr. 1 of the census year is the data used to apportion representatives in Congress. Because of the pandemic, the legislated deadline for completion of the data collection was first moved to Sept. 30, then Oct. 7, and then, following a ruling by U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh, Oct. 31. This data is then supposed to be submitted to Congress by Dec. 31. Challenges to the deadline extension resulted in a U.S. Supreme Court decision to end data collection by Oct. 15. It is not yet known how other dates will be impacted.

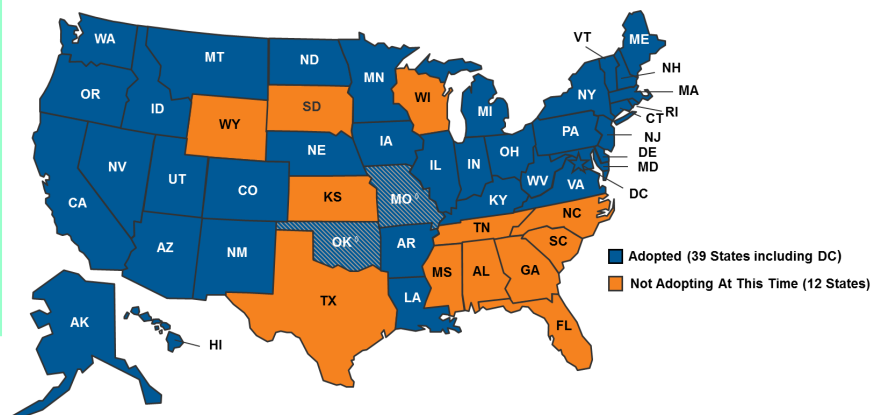
Battered by virus, tribes race to boost count

Lauri Dawn Kindness, a member of the Crow Indian nation returned to her hometown of Lodge Grass, Montana after spending more than a dozen years as a combat veteran in the U.S. Army. She has a new mission — to help her people. “One essential step,” she said, “is an accurate count on the once-a-decade U.S. Census,” which will determine how much federal money flows in for housing, schools, health care and other dire needs.

In Indian Country, missing a single family of four translates to \$14,000 a year in lost federal funding. In Arizona and Montana, whose pre-census data indicated the possibility of adding a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, an undercount means the states could miss the population threshold. As of Sept. 1, only 24% of residents of Montana tribal areas had been counted, a devastating undercount.

Matthew Brown, Iris Samuels and Lindsay Whitehurst, *The Associated Press*, 9/8/2020

Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions



SOURCE: “Status of State Action on the Medicaid Expansion Decision,” KFF State Health Facts, updated October 1, 2020. <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/state-activity-around-expanding-medicaid-under-the-affordable-care-act/>

The U.S. needs \$3 trillion in fiscal stimulus to support coronavirus-hit economy, says economist

According to William Lee, chief economist at Milken Institute, the U.S. needs around \$3 trillion in fiscal stimulus to support its pandemic-hit economy, as Congress and the White House remain in a stalemate over what to include in the next relief package. The U.S. has reported the world’s highest number of COVID-19 cases and death toll, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. As of Sept. 3, more than 6.3 million infections have been reported in the U.S. with over 190,000 deaths, the data showed. Yen Nee Lee, *CNBC*, 9/9/2020

Editor’s note: As of 10/14/2020, 7,954,066 Americans have been infected, while 5,063,122 have recovered. There are 2,671,690 cases still active and 219,254 people have died.

*Editor’s note: On October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis presented encyclical instructions to the Church, and the world, in **Fratelli Tutti**: On Fraternity and Social Friendship. In eight chapters and nearly 43,000 words, the Pope conveys messages we will explore further in the Spring 2021 BCRI newsletter. An initial response and a brief overview of the encyclical follow below.*

Pope Francis’s new encyclical is a papal warning about a world going backward

[W]ith the release Sunday of his third encyclical, a book-length paper that feels like something from a bygone time, Francis makes an uncynical case for how people can reverse course. The document amounts to a papal stand against tribalism, xenophobia, and the dangers of the social media age. He further states that there are “huge economic interests” operating in the digital world, capable of manipulation and subverting “the democratic process.” Those sentiments come as little surprise to anybody who has listened to the pope’s remarks over the years — with frequent denunciations of populism and wall-building — but the paper argues in more details about how the style can exacerbate divisions and lead to other societal breakdowns. Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli, *Reuters*, 10/4/2020

Fratelli Tutti — A Brief Overview

The chapter headings found within this latest encyclical from Pope Francis provide insight into his awareness of the “snapshot in time” into which this letter is placed. The encyclical begins with “Dark Clouds over a Closed World,” which references the many negative effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. The parable of the Good Samaritan frames Chapter 2, “A Stranger on the Road.” A universal love that creates an open world is explored in Chapters 3 (“Envisioning and Engendering an Open World”) and 4 (“A Heart Open to the World”). The overwhelming nature of the impact of politics in everyday life is discussed in Chapter 5, “A Better Kind of Politics.” Chapter 6, “A Dialogue and Friendship in Society,” defines and highlights the value of dialogue, while “Paths of a New Encounter” offer direction and new approaches in Chapter 7. The final chapter, “Religions at the Service of Fraternity in the World,” appeals to the peace, justice and fraternity that our faith experience and accumulated wisdom offer to a fractured world.

Other cultures are not “enemies” from which we need to protect ourselves, but differing reflections of the inexhaustible richness of human life. *Pope Francis*

Communities Respond

Editor's note: In the wake of the senseless killing of George Floyd on Memorial Day, and even more recent deaths at the hands of police and vigilantes from both sides of the political spectrum, we share excerpts from around the Benedictine world and the entire faith community addressing these volatile times and our response to them.

We, as a Benedictine community, stand united in our response to the racial injustices in our country against people of color, particularly African Americans. We pray for the nation's healing. We dedicate ourselves to shaping a community based on understanding, acceptance, equality, and compassion. We pledge to listen, learn, pray, and seek solutions that result in a world where the dignity and diversity of all people are cherished. Villa Madonna Academy and the Benedictine Sisters express our unity and commitment to transformational change in our world.

St. Walburg Monastery, Covington, Kentucky

The **Sacred Heart Monastery** community at Cullman, Alabama presented reflection points given by Brian Stevenson at their annual Peace and Justice community meeting:

If we don't know our history, we can't really begin to understand what our obligations are, what our responsibilities are, what we should fear, what we should celebrate, what is honorable and what's not honorable. Once we know our history, we begin to think differently about who we are. We got comfortable with creating a Constitution that talks about equality and justice for all but did not apply it to millions of indigenous peoples who were on this land.

Until we understand that history, we can't begin thinking about what our responsibilities are now? What are our obligations now? What would it take to recover from that kind of violence, the kind of destruction that we did to millions of people?

Having the Difficult Conversation:

In September, the **Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore** presented a virtual workshop designed to assist participants in "developing ways to foster productive, transformative conversations in a faith context, through reflective reading, silence and dialogue."

Presented by Beth Taneyhill, OlsB and Sr. Kathy McNany, OSB, and adapting some process material from NETWORK (Catholic Social Justice Lobby), the experience gave participants an opportunity to explore ways to breach the polarization happening in families and the larger community. The program included in-depth small group and larger group sharing, and ended with a commitment by workshop attendees to having a difficult conversation with someone else and sharing the experience at the next meeting on October 20.

Readers are encouraged to visit the community's website, where future "Having the Difficult Conversation..." topics are listed. These include **racism**, elections, immigration, political divisiveness ... to name a few.

www.emmanuelosb.org

IN THIS HOUSE, WE BELIEVE:
BLACK LIVES MATTER
WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS
NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL
SCIENCE IS REAL
LOVE IS LOVE
KINDNESS IS EVERYTHING

LCWR Condemns Racism in All Forms

The statement which follows was formulated at the August 12-14, 2020 annual convention of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) — an association of leaders from 1300 member communities focused on collaboratively carrying out their service of leadership to further the mission of the Gospel in today's world:

LCWR condemns racism in all its harmful forms whether the violent acts of the Ku Klux Klan, Neo-Nazis, and White Supremacist groups or the daily acts of hate and discrimination that diminish us all.

We grieve with the citizens of Charlottesville and all people of goodwill. We mourn with all who have lost loved ones, with all who live in fear, with all whose dignity is threatened by hate and violence. We lament the racism that continues to afflict our communities and threaten the values that we hold dear.

We acknowledge our own complicity in institutional racism. We commit ourselves to cleanse our hearts and rid our land of this evil. We promise to pray for our country and to continue to use our voice and our energy to build God's beloved community where all are one in Christ Jesus.

How To Live Through A Divided, Turbulent Time With Grace

It's hard not to internalize the anguish and anger coming from our African American citizens. It's equally heart-wrenching to watch the violent street clashes between police and protesters. Meanwhile, the pandemic continues to claim thousands more lives. Those who've lost their jobs continue to struggle.

We can let events act on us. Or, we can choose how we want to act in the face of events. How do we want this time in history to live through us? ... Across the country, there were other signs of light amid many dark hours. In some cities, police knelt with protesters. Sheriffs walked with demonstrators. In Louisville, a line of white women linked arms to create a human shield between police and African American demonstrators.

The Trappist monk and spirituality author Thomas Merton lived during the Spanish flu pandemic, both World Wars, the Great Depression, the dropping of the atomic bomb, the assassination of an American president, segregation and the struggle for civil rights. He never stopped believing in grace, writing:

"People seem to think that it is in some way a proof that no merciful God exists, if we have so many wars. On the contrary, consider how in spite of centuries of sin and greed and lust and cruelty and hatred and avarice and oppression and injustice ... the human race can still recover each time, and can still produce men and women who overcome evil with good, hatred with love, greed with charity."

May it be so in the current time. May we be the women and men who overcome evil with good, hatred with love, greed with charity.

*Judith Valente, Co-chair
Being Benedictine*

To Racism

This excerpt is posted on the website of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth — our partner community:

A New Report from Occupied Territory

In 1966, James Baldwin wrote his famous essay, "A Report from Occupied Territory," focusing on police brutality in Harlem, but his larger aim is to look at America as a whole. The myth of progress [in confronting racism] convinces us that things have improved... believing things have changed for the better when they have not. America still has not really wrestled with its original sin of slavery and racism...

This is not to say that progress has been lacking since the 1960s. But it is clear that in America's desire to create a post-racial society — perhaps much like our approach to the COVID-19 virus — we grew weary of the actual work and talked ourselves into believing racism was simply over, or at least conquered.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "In the final analysis, a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it that America has failed to hear?" America has failed to hear the cry of people of color as their communities are overpoliced and routinely subjected to unreasonable violence by those sworn to protect them... I think about the continued injustice of being black in America, and my heart breaks. It breaks my heart because this is not a new injustice, but one that is built into the fabric of American institutions, [and because] so many white people have remained silent for far too long — and that includes myself.

When Baldwin writes we are in "occupied territory," he reveals an important truth. But an even deeper truth is that God's Spirit occupies this territory. As co-laborers with God, we must ALL — as the Spirit gives utterance — consider our role in overcoming racism in all its various forms and sources. May we be up to the task!

John Shively, Coordinator of the Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation for the **Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth**, 6/2/2020

In February of 2017, the Conference of Benedictine prioresses crafted a statement against racism, calling it a social sin. In the statement they said, "To speak of social sin means ... to recognize that, by virtue of a human solidarity, ... each individual's (and corporate) sin in some way affects others. . . . Every sin has repercussions on the entire ecclesial body and the whole human family." We as Benedictines take a stand against any and all expressions of racism and white supremacy, beginning with the racial, cultural, and class disparities in our nation. We challenge government and church leaders to do all they can to speak out against such injustices in our society. We also challenge ourselves to look at our own attitudes and actions that condone any kind of racism. We urge you to join us in praying for the Floyd family as well as the many families whose lives were tragically altered or whose fears have been increased as a result of this tragedy.

At this time in our history, we again commit ourselves to "Examine the root causes of injustice, particularly of racism, as a consequence of unacknowledged white privilege, and our own complicity over the years in this societal reality . . . [and to] work to effect systemic change that will promote a society that respects all people and that recognizes the equality, human dignity and human rights of all."

Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS

*We stand against racism in all its forms.
All people are to be welcomed as Christ.
ALL PEOPLE.
AT ALL TIMES.*



*LISTEN
to the cries.
LISTEN.*

From the website of the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia, 8/10/2020

Christ the King Priory in Schuyler, Nebraska has partnered with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Omaha to form El Puente Immigration Legal Services. Their work "provides quality, accessible and affordable legal immigration assistance and services focused on unifying immigrant families in a safe, welcoming and confidential environment ... to unite and reunite families from all over the world." Included in the services provided are specific ways to improve the status of refugees seeking residence, as well as community presentations and outreach to both the immigrant and nonimmigrant community as a way to counteract racism towards the migrant community.

El Puente helps its clients with filing USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) forms, petitioning for refugee/asylum status, fiancée applications, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), families and petitioners under the Violence Against Women Act — to name a few of the services available for migrants, immigrants and refugees.

Once again, I stand with our Benedictine community listening with the ear of my heart to the pain of another shameful death of a human person, our black brother, George Floyd. The tragedy of his senseless death and inhuman treatment touches our lives with intense outrage and heart wrenching sadness.

The echo of his helpless cry haunts me. "I cannot breathe!" landed on deaf ears. This obscenity resulted in his death by the hands of those pledged to protect him. We must hear this cry and change the course of this pattern of inhuman, cruel treatment. We must address its roots and plant the seeds for a future of justice, freedom and peacefulness for all people without excuse or delay.

Sister Susan Rudolph, Prioress
St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph MN

Recent Actions Affecting Immigration Policy

Border Wall

- Since 2017, the administration has set aside \$15 billion for 738 miles of walls and fencing on the 2,000-mile border. The government has completed 260 miles of replacement and secondary walls, but only 5 new miles of high steel bollard fencing where none existed before. Daniel Gonzalez, *Arizona Republic*, 8/18/2020

Zero Tolerance Policy

- In 2018, the administration implemented a zero-tolerance policy that resulted in the separation of thousands of families caught entering the U.S. without authorization. Daniel Gonzalez, *Arizona Republic*, 8/18/2020
- On January 2020, The Los Angeles Times reported that the official government count of children separated from their parents or guardians under the family separation policy is **4,368**. Kristina Davis, *The Los Angeles Times*, 1/18/2020
- On October 6, The New York Times reported that a draft report from the Justice Department inspector general found that Justice Department's top officials were "a driving force" behind the "zero tolerance" policy. Ryan Chatelain, *Spectrum News*, 10/7/2020

Migrant Protection Protocols

- In 2019, the administration implemented the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) program, that forces migrants seeking asylum in the U.S. to wait in Mexico for their asylum hearings. Daniel Gonzalez, *Arizona Republic*, 8/18/2020
- More than 43,800 cases have been completed for the migrants who were caught in the administration's MPP. Only 525 migrants (just over 1%) were granted asylum or another form of relief in 2020. About 21,000 migrants still are stuck in the process, waiting for the courts to reopen to resume their hearings. More than 32,500 MPP migrants already have received orders of removal. And more than 28,000 of those orders were because the migrants missed their court hearings. Silvia Foster-Frau, *San Antonio Express-News*, 9/16/2020

Center for Disease Control and Prevention Rule

- In March 2020, the administration shut the door to all asylum-seekers by implementing a 1944 CDC rule that allows the government to quickly deport anyone who arrives at the border without authorization, including asylum-seekers, citing public health concerns amid the pandemic. Daniel Gonzalez, *Arizona Republic*, 8/18/2020
- The administration has expelled more than 159,000 people since the CDC emergency order took effect in March, a figure that also includes nearly 7,000 families with minors and more than 6,500 unaccompanied children. Camilo Montoya-Galvez, *CBS News*, 9/11/2020

Refugees

- Back in 2018, the current administration slashed refugee spots to 45,000, to 30,000 in Fiscal Year 2019, and to 18,000 in Fiscal Year 2020. Because of a temporary admissions freeze during the first months of the pandemic, the U.S. admitted roughly 11,000 refugees in Fiscal Year 2020. The administration said it is planning to take in no more than 15,000 refugees in Fiscal Year 2021. Camilo Montoya-Galvez, *CBS News*, 10/1/2020

Travel Bans

- In 2017, the administration implemented a ban on certain individuals arriving from Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen. In 2020, the travel bans were expanded to certain individuals from Burma, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Sudan, and Tanzania. Daniel Gonzalez, *Arizona Republic*, 8/18/2020

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency Detention Numbers

- In January 2020, ICE detained 45,884 migrants. As of September 25, ICE is housing 19,791 detainees in its facilities. Karen Robinson-Jacobs, *Forbes*, 9/30/2020

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- In September 2017, the administration moved to rescind Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. By 2020, a 5-4 ruling by the Supreme Court found that the administration had improperly ended the program. In July, the administration announced the DACA program was being reviewed and under new rules, no new applications would be accepted from so-called Dreamers applying for the first

time. Daniel Gonzalez, *Arizona Republic*, 8/18/2020

- Approximately 643,560 unauthorized immigrants are currently benefiting from the program, according to March 2020 data from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. *USAFacts.org*, 9/23/2020

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Service Fee Increase

- Starting Oct. 2, the administration is increasing fees for applying for naturalization and other immigration benefits to help offset a large budget shortfall at USCIS, the agency that oversees immigration benefits. Under the new fees, legal immigrants will pay \$1,170 (from previous cost of \$640) to apply for naturalization, or \$1,160 if submitted online. Daniel Gonzalez, *Arizona Republic*, 8/18/2020
- On September 29, 2020, U.S. District Judge Jeffrey White issued a nationwide injunction blocking USCIS from implementing their fee increase rule that had been set to take effect on October 2, 2020. *National Law Review*, 10/5/2020



Nearly 9,000 migrant children have been expelled under pandemic border policy

At least 8,800 migrant children who arrived at the southern border without their parents have been swiftly expelled from the country and denied U.S. refuge during the pandemic. In addition to the unaccompanied minors, approximately 7,600 members of migrant families with children have been expelled from the U.S.-Mexico border since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a public health order authorizing these expulsions in mid-March. With single adults accounted for, more than 159,000 expulsions have been carried out under the unprecedented restrictions. According to the figures revealed Sept. 11, nearly 7,000 families with minors and more than 6,500 unaccompanied children were expelled by land to Mexico. Border Patrol also transferred 2,200 unaccompanied children and 600 families to ICE so the agency could expel them on repatriation flights.

Camilo Montoya-Galvez, *CBS News*, 9/11/2020

Updates

Engineer finds a portion of Texas border wall at risk of failing

A new engineering report casts doubt on the structural integrity of the border wall that Fisher Sand and Gravel built along the Rio Grande River in Mission, Texas, as well as Fisher's ability to correct deficiencies that will likely cause the wall to fail.

Civil and environmental engineer Mark Tompkins found that the 18-foot-high bollard fence has caused significant erosion and will fail during a "high flow event," according to new documents filed in a lawsuit. [This action was] brought by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) against Fisher, the nonprofit We Build the Wall, (crowdfunding its construction), and the property's owner. Tompkins, whose work was funded by NABA, also found that the plan Fisher formulated to maintain the wall is inadequate.

A second firm, Millennium Engineering Group, filed its own report, noting erosion on the river side of the wall that could pose a future risk of deflection. It also found that the riverside concrete foundation of the wall, as well as pour strips, were poured without the use of formwork and that areas of erosion under the wall were up to 4-feet deep and 3-feet wide, which could impact the wall's stability.

Kim Slowey, **Construction Dive**, 9/11/2020



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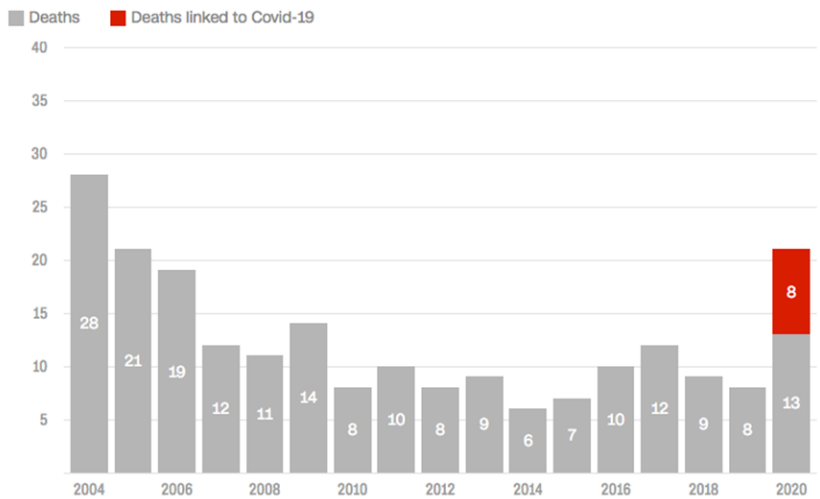
Death Toll In ICE Custody Is the Highest It's Been In 15 Years

The number of deaths in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody grew dramatically this year. In the 2020 Fiscal Year, 21 people died in ICE custody, according to a CNN tally of data released by the agency. That's more than double the number of deaths in Fiscal Year 2019, and the highest annual death toll since 2005. More than a third of the people who died in ICE custody this year had tested positive for COVID-19.

Catherine E. Shoichet, **CNN**, 9/30/2020

Many more people died in ICE custody this year

The number of deaths in ICE custody increased dramatically during the 2020 fiscal year, which ends September 30. Eight of the 21 deaths in ICE custody were linked to Covid-19.



Graphic: Christopher Hickey, **CNN**

We need to avoid a common temptation nowadays: to discard whatever proves troublesome. Let us remember the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Pope Francis

Southwest Border Migration

Fiscal Year 2020	Unaccompanied Alien Child	Family Units	Single Adult	Total Arrests
October	2,841	9,721	22,840	35,402
November	3,308	9,006	21,210	33,524
December	3,223	8,595	21,035	32,853
January	2,680	5,161	21,364	29,205
February	3,070	4,610	22,397	30,077
March	2,974	3,455	23,960	30,389
April	712	716	14,754	16,182
May	966	979	19,648	21,593
June	1,603	1,581	27,652	30,836
July	2,426	1,989	34,121	38,536
August	2,998	2,609	41,676	47,283
September	3,756	3,808	47,207	54,771
Total	30,557	52,230	317,864	400,651

Data gathered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection

DHS Cannot Detain Unaccompanied Migrant Kids In Hotel Rooms, Court Rules

The administration cannot detain immigrant children in hotels before removing them from the country, a federal appeals court ruled on October 3, preventing immigration authorities from restarting a controversial practice that officials claimed was designed to stop the spread of COVID-19. According to a court-appointed monitor, 660 kids were placed in hotels this year, 577 of them were not accompanied by their families. Most of the kids were only held in hotels for a few days, but some were forced to stay for weeks. Immigration and Customs Enforcement effectively ended the practice in mid-September, CBS reported.

Joe Walsh, **Forbes**, 10/5/2020

Pandemic

Life After the Pandemic

In these difficult times of isolation, sickness and uncertainty, Rev. Michael Czerny, SJ has published a collection of messages by Pope Francis entitled, "Life After the Pandemic." Even Czerny's title evokes the thoughts and prayers and reliance on hope the Holy Father brings to our current global crisis. Some excerpts include:

If we act as one people, even in the face of other epidemics that threaten us, we can make a real impact. ... May we find within us the necessary antibodies of justice, charity and solidarity.

We must not be afraid to live the alternative — the civilization of love. ... In this time of tribulation and mourning, I hope that, where you are, you will be able to experience Jesus, who comes to meet you and says: "Rejoice." And may this greeting mobilize us to invoke and amplify the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Another passage recounts the Pope's admonitions to those with political and economic power, as well as the way some have selfishly envisioned the pandemic. Pope Francis states that we may "be struck by an even worse virus, that of selfish indifference. A virus spread by the thought that life is better if it is better for me, and that everything will be fine if it is fine for me... discarding the poor, and sacrificing those left behind on the altar of 'progress'."

Editor's note: The information contained in this piece has been drawn from an article by Fr. Thomas Reese, SJ entitled, "In 'Life After The Pandemic' Pope Francis hopes COVID-19 will change us," as reported in the San Antonio Express News, 9/8/2020.

People were created to be loved. Things were created to be used. The reason why the world is in chaos is because things are being loved and people are being used.

The Dalai Lama XIV

World Health Organization (WHO) Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard

Globally, as of October 14, 2020, there have been 38,002,699 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 1,083,234 deaths, reported to WHO. In the United States of America, from January 3 to October 14, 2020, there have been 7,728,436 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 213,626 deaths.

World Health Organization, 10/14/2020



World Health Organization

WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard

Data last updated: 2020/10/14, 4:14pm CEST

Name	Cases - cumulative total	
Global	38,002,699	
United States o...	7,728,436	<div></div>
India	7,239,389	<div></div>
Brazil	5,103,408	<div></div>
Russian Feder...	1,340,409	<div></div>
Colombia	919,083	<div></div>

Coronavirus pandemic to cost Americans \$16 trillion, study finds

The coronavirus pandemic will end up costing Americans \$16 trillion, according to a new study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, which was co-authored by former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers and Harvard University economist David Cutler. If the study is correct, the coronavirus' eventual impact could be four times the size of the damage done by the 2008 housing bust and subsequent Great Recession. The total cost of the pandemic, including more than 10 weeks of near total lockdown across most of the country, caused the gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter to drop by more than a third — eclipsing the money the U.S. has spent on every war since September 11, 2001 (including those in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria). About half of the price tag, \$8.6 trillion, is driven by the long-term health implications and costs for those who contract COVID-19, as well as statistical estimates for the loss of life. The study also estimates \$2.6 trillion in long-term additional costs from people who survive COVID-19 but have resulting long-term health damage. Mental health costs because of the pandemic will rise by \$1.6 trillion, the authors estimate.

Stephen Gandel, **CBS News**, 10/12/2020

Airlines planning massive airlift for vaccines

Reaching all 7.8 billion people on the planet with a coronavirus vaccine will require a global airlift filling the equivalent of 8,000 Boeing 747 freighters, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has concluded. This is based on a capacity estimate for a single dose only. IATA cargo head, Glyn Hughes, has clarified, "Airlift is the correct terminology here... We know the procedures well... We need to scale them up to the magnitude that will be required."

This reporting highlights some of the difficulties such an airlift would face. The proposed vaccines require storage temperatures between 35-46°F, basically excluding many planes. Developing markets like Latin America and Africa pose critical issues. Much of the product they receive is transported in the bellies of passenger planes currently grounded because of the pandemic. Cooling facilities throughout the global network will need to be created.

Finally, the World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that there are as many as 250 different vaccine programs under development. Coordination of the vaccine supply, according to Hughes, represents the "largest single transport challenge ever." It will require working with airlines, airports, global health bodies and pharmaceutical firms to pull together plans for a vaccine distribution program.

Christopher Jasper, **Bloomberg**, 9/10/2020

Climate

Climate — An Update

Since our last publication, many disturbing trends continue to remind us of just how fragile Earth, our home, really is. Here are some examples:

- ♦ According to Graham Sextone, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Southwest has been mired in drought for the past two decades, prompting researchers to suggest that the region is rapidly moving towards a several-decades-long megadrought. Henry Fountain, *New York Times*, 7/9/2020
- ♦ A new record-high Arctic Circle temperature (100°F) was recorded on June 19. *San Antonio Express-News*, 6/24/2020
- ♦ In an *Associated Press* article, "Temperatures soaring: Earth ties record high heat in May," Seth Borenstein reported that the average global temperature in May of this year was 60.3°F, which was 1.7°F higher than the 20th Century average for the entire Earth. Reported in the *San Antonio Express-News*, 6/13/2020
- ♦ As reported in *The New York Times*, the temperature in Death Valley, California on August 16 was the highest recorded temperature on Earth at 130°F. Concepción de León and John Schwartz, 8/17/2020
- ♦ From the *Associated Press*, "Greenland's record ice loss in 2019 raises sea levels, coastal concerns," data suggests that the country's 586 billion tons of ice melt in 2019 was enough to cover the entire state of California in four feet of water. *San Antonio Express-News*, 8/21/2020
- ♦ Several hurricanes in 2020 intensified at extremely rapid rates that shattered records. Within a six-hour period on Sept. 18, Tropical Storm Wilfred, Subtropical Storm Alpha, and Tropical Storm Beta were named by the National Hurricane Center, the first time since Aug. 15, 1893 that three storms formed on the same calendar day. Isabella O'Malley, *The Weather Network*, 9/24/2020
- ♦ As of October 1, wildfires across California have burned a record 4 million acres, more than double the previous record set in 2018. Officials state that 16,500 firefighters are trying to contain 23 major fires in the state, as well as responding to 27 new fires.

Gisela Crespo and Mallika Kallingal, *CNN*, 10/5/2020

Only when the last tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realize we cannot eat money.

Indian Proverb



The Bear Fire burned on a hillside near the Bidwell Bar Bridge in Oroville, Calif. Credit: Noah Berger/Associated Press



The final words of *Fratelli Tutti*, the encyclical issued October 4, 2020, call us to this prayerful reflection.

An Ecumenical Christian Prayer

O God, Trinity of love, from the profound communion of your divine life, pour out upon us a torrent of fraternal love.

Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus, in his family of Nazareth, and in the early Christian community.

Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel, discovering Christ in each human being, recognizing him crucified in the sufferings of the abandoned and forgotten of our world, and risen in each brother or sister who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty, reflected in all the peoples of the earth, so that we may discover anew that all are important and all are necessary, different faces of the one humanity that God so loves.

Amen.

ATLANTIC SEASON COMPARISON: 2020 VS 2005		
	2020	2005
Total Storms	24	28
Hurricanes	8	15
Major	2	7

In terms of number and intensity, the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season trails 2005. However, September 2020 set a record of 10 named storms in one month: Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, Wilfred, Alpha and Beta.

Gene Norman and Allison Chinchar
CNN Weather, 10/3/2020



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.

Meeting Dates

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) - March 1-5, 2021

Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) will meet over ZOOM 2020

BCRI will meet over ZOOM 2020

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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.

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