

Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

Fall 2021 — Issue 28

Together, we lift up our ever-changing world



When we started working on this newsletter, the general consensus was we were “opening up”, moving toward a post-pandemic mindset. Then, the delta variant changed history and dramatically pushed us back into reality.

As we go to press, many of the issues we document are screaming for attention. Climate change is front and center ... heat, floods, icebergs melting, fires, earthquakes. Immigration is daily at our borders, in the courts and in people’s lives. The statistics for the COVID-19 virus continue to lead the news. Across the world, many situations demand immediate resources. We see what is happening in Haiti and Afghanistan and cannot look away.

The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, our national group, postponed the celebration of its 50th Anniversary until next year. Our national meetings have been virtual since March 2020. The Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment (CRI) has been meeting monthly by ZOOM. We have become more knowledgeable about technology. One upside is that more persons can participate in virtual meetings without traveling.

None of this has stopped our relentless work to question corporations about their practices and policies. We continue to analyze and assess situations. We talked with the pharmaceutical companies about the vaccine development. We have spoken with other companies about their employee policies/wages/working conditions during the pandemic.

As we enter the 2022 proxy season, we operate under the new Securities and Exchange (SEC) rules which are designed to make it more difficult for small shareholders to raise questions and make it harder to keep the issues on proxy ballots for multiple years. We are part of a lawsuit in U.S. federal court to overturn these rules. The federal judge wants to make a ruling by March 2022.

Pope Francis continues to remind us ... “A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern with our fellow human beings ... Everything is connected.” **Laudato Sí #91**

We do believe all the aspects of life are interconnected. It is one of motivating factors as we move forward with **hope**.

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ICCR: Significant 2021 Shareholder Results

Editor's Note: The chart below summarizes shareholder votes recorded by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) for this proxy season. BCRI members also pressed corporations on many of these same issues.

Notable 2021 Resolution Votes

Company	Resolution Name	Vote
Bunge Ltd.	Deforestation Policy	98.9%
Wendy's International	Protecting Essential Food Chain Workers During COVID-19	95%
Paycom Software	Executive Leadership Diversity	93.8%
Badger Meter Inc.	Solutions for Increasing Diversity on Board of Directors	85.3%
DuPont Company	Report on Plastic Pellet Pollution	81%
Norfolk Southern	Paris-Aligned Climate Lobbying	76.4%
Bloomin' Brands	Deforestation Policy	76%
GEO Group	Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Immigration	66.31%
Phillips 66	Paris-Aligned Climate Lobbying	62.49%
American Express	Assess Company Diversity and Inclusion Efforts	59.7%
Goldman Sachs	Impact of Use of Mandatory Arbitration	49%
Eli Lilly	Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure	48.2%
Chevron	Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate Change	48%
Chevron	Climate Change Impacts on Financial Position and Assumptions	48%
Amazon.com	Civil Rights, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Audit	44.18%
Charles Schwab	Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure	44.1%
Bristol-Myers Squibb	Independent Board Chair	44%
Johnson & Johnson	Independent Board Chair	43.3%
Charter Communications	Assess Company Diversity and Inclusion Efforts	41.4%
Abbott Laboratories	Disclosure on Plans and Policies Aligned with Achieving Racial Equality	38.9%
Boeing Company	Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure	37.1%
Sempra Energy	Paris-Aligned Climate Lobbying	37%
United Parcel Service	Report on Plans to Align Operations with Paris Agreement	36.7%
Charter Communications	Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure	36.5%
AbbVie	Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure	36.1%

Inclusive Capitalism is Necessary for Democracy

Capitalism and democracy follow different logics: unequally distributed property rights on the one hand, equal civic and political rights on the other; profit-oriented trade within capitalism in contrast to the search for the common good within democracy; debate, compromise and majority decision-making within democratic politics versus hierarchical decision-making by managers and capital owners. Capitalism is not democratic, democracy is not capitalist.

Three forms of Capitalism:

Raw market capitalism: This type was dominant in Europe and North America throughout much of the Nineteenth Century. State institutions in this context largely refrained from interfering in markets (including labor markets), as well as economic and social policy. Taxes and expenditures were low.

Coordinated capitalism: Large and small businesses find ways to cooperate with government in a search for the common good. This type of capitalism would be compatible with the inclusive capitalism movement. Coordinated capitalism (inclusive capitalism) is most likely to achieve growth which emphasizes the common good and simultaneously legitimizes and strengthens democratic institutions.

Neoliberal/financial capitalism: Neoliberalism stresses that capitalism is self-regulating with minimal state regulations. From the 1970s to the present, there has been a period of deregulation, privatization, and partial-deconstruction of the welfare states. Neoliberal capitalism does not promote the common good and is anti-democratic.



Larry Hufford, Ph.D.

Professor of Political Science and International Relations, St. Mary's University

Link for inclusive capitalism: <https://www.coalitionforinclusivecapitalism.com/what-is-inclusive-capitalism/>

Link for Catholic Social Teaching on Capitalism: <https://www.cctwincities.org/education-advocacy/catholic-social-teaching/notable-quotations/capitalism/>

2021 Shareholder Resolutions and Votes

ABBVIE

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Withdrawn
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

ALPHABET

Report on Government-Mandated Content Removal Requests — 13.30%

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica
Executive Pay—Incorporate Diversity and Sustainability Metrics — 12.20%
Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

AMAZON.COM

Hourly Associate on Board of Directors — 17.48%
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica
Civil Rights, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Audit — 44.18%
Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

BOEING

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — 37.10%
Benedictine Sisters — Chicago, IL

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB

Independent Board Chair — 44.00%
Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

CHEVRON

Environmental Justice and Racial Equity Analysis — Omitted by SEC
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX
Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

CITIGROUP (will do report)

Report on Reducing GHG Emissions Associated with Financing Activities — Withdrawn
Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

COMCAST

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

CVS HEALTH CORPORATION

Feasibility of Paid Sick Leave as a Standard Employee Benefit — Omitted by SEC
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION (will do report)

Paris-Aligned Climate Lobbying — Withdrawn
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

EXXON MOBIL

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — 55.60%
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica
Climate Change Impacts on Financial Position and Assumptions — 48.90%
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

HOME DEPOT (will publish EEO-1 data)

Workforce Diversity Report — Withdrawn
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

IPG PHOTONICS CORPORATION

Report on Steps to Address Board Diversity — Withdrawn due to agreement
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

J. P. MORGAN CHASE & CO.

Measure and Disclose Financed GHG Emissions — Withdrawn due to agreement
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica
Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon
Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

JOHNSON & JOHNSON

Civil Rights Audit — 33.90%
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica
Access to COVID-19 Products (vaccines) — 31.77%
Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

MCDONALD'S CORPORATION

Feasibility of Paid Sick Leave as a Standard Employee Benefit — Omitted by SEC
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX
Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL
Benedictine Sisters — Chicago, IL

MERCK & CO., INC.

Access to COVID-19 Products (vaccines) — 32.96%
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

PFIZER

Access to COVID-19 Products (vaccines)— 28.28%
Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

PHILLIPS 66

Paris-Aligned Climate Lobbying — 62.49%
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

REGENERON PHARMACEUTICALS

Access to COVID-19 Products (vaccines)— Withdrawn
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

TYSON FOODS

Human Rights Due Diligence — 18.40%
Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

UNITED PARCEL SERVICE

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure — Climate Change — 25.80%
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

VALERO ENERGY CORPORATION (will do report)

Paris-Aligned Climate Lobbying — Withdrawn
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

WALMART STORES, INC.

Starting Pay and Racial Equity — 12.50%
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX



SEC Enforces New Rules for 2022



The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) Files Lawsuit to Overturn SEC 14a-8 Revisions

Two hundred corporate responsibility groups signed a letter requesting that the United States Congress use the provisions of the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to undo the rules for filing shareholder resolutions that were enacted at the end of the previous administration. Unfortunately, Congress did not take up this request. As a result, ICCR members issued the following press release:

On June 15, along with fellow-plaintiffs As You Sow and James McRitchie, ICCR filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia challenging the SEC's recent amendments to the 14a-8 rule governing the filing of Shareholder proposals. The complaint, charges that the SEC's rule changes, promulgated under the previous administration, are unlawful under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), and seeks a judgment to have them vacated."

For decades, the 14a-8 rule has allowed shareholders to submit proposals for inclusion in a company's proxy statement asking the company to consider additional material disclosures, policies, or governance changes. In September 2020, the SEC imposed a new rule that sharply restricts shareholders' ability to submit proposals through dramatically increased requirements for the amount of stock held, the duration of stock ownership, and the votes required for resubmitting proposals.

While the three are named as lead parties to the complaint, the action is supported by a large community of institutional investors representing trillions of dollars in assets that have long used the 14a-8 process to bring material concerns to the attention of boards, management, and fellow shareholders.

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, 6/15/21

Editor's Note: ICCR has successfully sued the SEC in 1985, with Judge Kimba Wood ruling in favor of the suit.

SEC Increases Rule 14a-8 Thresholds

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has adopted amendments to the proxy rules to increase the threshold requirements for shareholders to access a company's proxy materials. The final amendments will apply to any proposal submitted for any annual or special meeting held on or after 1/1/2022. The final rules will also provide for a transition period with respect to the ownership thresholds that will allow reliance on the prior \$2,000 for one-year ownership threshold for proposals submitted for a shareholder meeting held prior to 1/1/2023. The chart below shows the impact of the new rules going into effect.

Eleazer Klein, Daniel A. Goldstein
and David M. Rothenberg,
Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP, 10/12/20

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."

Game Changers

Ford unveils all-electric F-150 series pickup truck, The Lightning

With the rollout of the prototype F-150 Lightning, the opportunity to significantly reduce global warming generated by fossil-fuel-powered transportation has taken a dramatic leap forward. Here are some of the features:

- ♦ **Price:** Starting price for the lowest trim Model (XL) is \$39,974, while the mid-series XLT starts at \$52,974.
- ♦ **Warranty:** EV Component Coverage would extend for 8 years or 100,000 miles. The Electric Vehicle Roadside Assistance Program covers 5 years or 60,000 miles.
- ♦ **Range:** The F-150 Lightning standard range will be approximately 230 miles between recharging, while the extended range will be nearly 300 miles.
- ♦ **Towing:** The standard range Lightning will be able to tow up to 7,700 pounds and the extended range can tow 10,000 pounds.
- ♦ **Charging:** EV owners can charge their vehicles overnight, except when going on extended trips. Then, owners will have to rely on charging stations to recharge the battery. The company has produced a table indicating charge times for various types of chargers that will be available. For standard-range vehicles, four types of chargers are currently available: 32-amp Ford Mobile Charger (14 hours), 48-amp Ford Connected Charge station and 80-amp Ford Charge Station Pro (10 hours), and the 150-kilowatt DC Fast Charging station (44 minutes).



- ♦ **Charging Station Networks:** Ford is offering two years of complimentary access to its network for easy “pay-as-you-drive” charging. Some networks exist.
- ♦ **Electric Motors/Maintenance/Safety:** Because there are less moving parts, EVs have much fewer maintenance costs than Internal Combustion Engine vehicles. As the forward section no longer has a large engine, a much larger crumple zone will protect passengers from front impacts.

Why is all this important? In our dialogue with Ford and other automakers, the concerns generated by this information will be helpful in asking appropriate questions. It is a climate-change breakthrough that the largest-selling vehicle in the world will begin production on carbon-emission-free pickup trucks, but what are the issues generated by the data contained here?

- ♦ How can financing be affordable for the middle and lower class?
- ♦ How expensive are the “home” charging stations?
- ♦ How does the economy recoup the lost income from gasoline sales?
- ♦ Which workers are displaced because of infrequent maintenance?
- ♦ When will other companies produce similar vehicles, with the expected outcome of lower prices for all?

Joel Evans, Intern

GM recalls all Chevy Bolts due to fire risk, says owners should park outside and limit charging

- General Motors is recalling all Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicles sold worldwide to fix a battery problem that could cause fires. The company last month told owners of 2017-2019 model year vehicles to park outdoors, not charge them overnight and limit charging to 90% of battery capacity, after two vehicles repaired in an earlier recall caught fire.
- Recently, President Biden signed an executive order that aims to make half of all new cars sold in the U.S. in 2030 be electric. Making that happen, according to the automakers, will require huge amounts of taxpayer money in the form of subsidies. It will also require about \$50 billion to be spent on EV charging stations. The cost of all those charging stations will likely be passed on to ratepayers in form of higher electric bills.

CBS News, 8/23/21; Forbes, 8/22/21

Washington debates how to tax electric vehicles

Policymakers are facing the reality that the main source of highway funding — fuel taxes — has long failed to generate enough revenue, and that will only get worse as electric vehicles grow. Around 90 percent of highway funding comes from taxes on fuel, a fixed fee of 18.3 cents per gallon for gasoline and 24.3 cents per gallon for diesel. Fuel taxes are no longer enough to fund the billions needed every year to maintain the nation's highway system. Congress began taking money from the general fund and backfilling the highway fund, totaling \$150 billion to date. The fund is expected to run out in 2022.

Riley Beggin, Detroit News, 7/17/21

Electric Vehicle Battery Makers

- Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Ltd. is a China-based supplier of power battery systems. The company is primarily engaged in the research, development, manufacture and sales of new energy vehicle power battery systems and energy storage systems.

Reuters, 7/22/21

- Form Energy is an American energy storage startup company. It is focused on utility-scale iron-air batteries. The company's first commercial product is a rechargeable iron-air battery capable of delivering electricity for 100 hrs.

PR Newswire, 7/22/21

ON MAY 26, FOSSIL FUEL CORPORATIONS SAW MAJOR SETBACKS

May brought significant legal and cultural setbacks to the fossil fuel assault on global warming and the climate crisis. Three particular events could impact the ongoing struggle between climate change advocates and the fossil fuel industry.

- May 26 – This was perhaps the fossil-fuel industry's most tumultuous day. First, a Dutch court ruled that **Royal Dutch Shell** must drastically cut its global carbon-dioxide emissions by 45% by the year 2030. The ruling came as a result of a class-action lawsuit alleging that Shell has an obligation to reduce its carbon-dioxide emissions and that it has violated human rights by fueling the climate crisis.
- A few hours later, 61% of **Chevron** shareholders voted to demand that the company cut what are termed “Scope 3” emissions, which include emissions that are caused by its customers burning their products. This was far beyond what companies usually agree to address – the emissions that come from their own operations.
- Finally, on this same day, in an unusually tense shareholder meeting, **ExxonMobil** officials had to announce that its shareholders had elected at least two climate change activists to its board of directors. A third activist candidate's fate is uncertain at this time. These candidates were voted in, in spite of the company's all-out work to keep them off the board. (Editor's Note: A third activist candidate eventually earned a seat on the board after a vote recount.)

The Migrant Crisis:

Editor's Note: These two pages hold first-hand accounts of BCRI members who spent time immersed in the processes and procedures involved in caring for the thousands of unaccompanied children seeking asylum in the United States at the U.S. Mexico border. Their stories contain evidence of difficulty and triumph ... and the universal nature of a child's hopes and dreams, enthusiasm and energy, and above all, trust and faith.

Editor's Note: This account is from Benedictine Sisters' staff who was hired to work at an intake facility for teenage boys in San Antonio.

I worked the day shift at the Freeman Coliseum in April and May of this year. Walking into the building was overwhelming. Looking at pictures in the media is completely different from standing in a building with over 2,000 unaccompanied children (UCs). As an extension of the Federal government, we workers soon used government acronyms for much of the work. That "shorthand" was necessary for the reporting, but it didn't take away the compassion each of us felt for these children. In the month and a half I worked there, I learned about the struggles many of these young men had to endure just to get to the United States. It makes me appreciate the opportunities we have in this country even more.

I worked at the Front Desk in Dorm 2. My job was to assign Youth Care Workers (YCW) to different pods where they would supervise the UCs within that pod. The children were supervised 24/7. We also dealt with the transferring of paperwork from the YCWs to the appropriate department like the medical team, mental health clinicians or case managers. We also assisted other departments in locating the UCs within each dorm.

Several services were provided to the UCs when needed. Medical teams were on hand 24/7 in a separate area. Mental health clinicians were available to speak with the UCs, as well as case managers and case aids. Teachers would assist the UCs in evaluating their education level. Entertainment also played a key element in the day-to-day life of the boys. We played several movies throughout the day on a projector. Our arts and crafts table grew from one small table to six large tables as the project continued. They loved to paint, color, and create—paper swans, flowers, and vases. There was time set to play outside, which mostly consisted of playing soccer. Catholic Charities provided donations of bibles, rosaries, books, toys and more.

Throughout this project, something that became a motto for many of us was we are here for the kids. We tried to make the children as comfortable as possible during their stay at the Freeman. We knew the goal was to reunite them with family, and we accomplished that with many of the children. It's an experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Nina Martínez, Administrative Assistant
Benedictine Sisters, Corporate Responsibility

In order to ensure the proper care of our common home, we must become a "we" that is ever wider and more co-responsible, in the profound conviction that whatever good is done in our world is done for present and future generations.

Pope Francis

Editor's Note: Sr. Molly Brockwell is a member of the Benedictine Sisters at Mt. St. Scholastica in Atchison, KS. Her experience in the Texas border town of Laredo, helping asylum seekers as they seek placement with relatives in the U.S., brings a different perspective to the plight of these migrants and refugees.

I had the privilege of spending three weeks in June serving immigrants and asylum seekers at Catholic Charities' **La Frontera** shelter in Laredo, Texas. It's a shoestring operation that has served more than 5,000 people since March. A large part of the current influx of people is the result of the backup that occurred when asylum seekers were sent back to Mexico to await court dates, and the subsequent halt to the hearings during the pandemic. The political aspects of the situation are complex, but the work Catholic Charities is doing is not political, it is humanitarian. For followers of Jesus, it is also mandated by the Gospel: to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and love one's neighbor as oneself.

The people I met and the stories I heard boggled my mind and touched my heart -- families who endured the kidnapping of their children; women assaulted, raped, beaten, imprisoned; migrants paying thousands of dollars to coyotes only to be held for ransom as they reached the US border. There were touching reunions between relatives separated in detention and then reunited at our shelter. There were many tears as people contacted their relatives to say they had finally made it to the US and would see them in a day or two. What beautiful people! We can only pray that their faith that has gotten them this far will sustain them in the difficult times ahead.

I know that it will take some time to process this experience and its meaning for me. It has given me names and faces and stories instead of headlines that can seem to be just a political tug-of-war. In actuality, the issues are about real people who love their children and are trying to provide safety and opportunity for them. They are our brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, children of God who have a right to seek a decent life for themselves and their families. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the Body of Christ in the immigrants at the border.

Molly Brockwell, OSB

Reflections from the Front Row

Editor's Note: Sr. Susan Barber and Sr. Bridget Dickason from Mt. St. Scholastica in Atchison, KS, spent time volunteering at the teenage boy migrant center in San Antonio. Here is her first-hand account of this experience.

Questions: What surprised me? What challenged me? What delighted me? How do I feel now/ what questions do I have?

I was most surprised by the tightness of the security and the genuine concern on the part of everyone for the safety of the boys. I was also surprised at how many of the boys were able to occupy themselves with activities during the day, in small groups or alone. They were especially adept at origami and soccer! Many of them showed pleasure at my attention to their creativity. Some boys were discouraged, though, as they had been there nearly 50 days by the time we arrived. I had been under the impression that all of the boys would be reunited within a few days of their arrival, but this was not the case. It also surprised me that movie choices were high action and somewhat violent. Movies were shown from 8 am to 10 pm.

They had the potential for showing beauty and promoting language learning, and this seemed to be a lost opportunity. I was challenged by not speaking fluent Spanish. I learned enough Spanish to teach Zen tangles, but because we were instructed to not ask personal questions of the boys, it was sometimes difficult to relate verbally. However, there was much opportunity for presence, kindness, and one-on-one interaction through checkers, art, and appreciation of their soccer playing or bracelet making.

I was delighted by the opportunity to be a "floater." When we checked in we were told to fill in for pod leaders or help as needed. This was very freeing and we were able to do a variety of things. I was amazed at the resilience of so many of the boys who had walked for a month to get to the border and didn't know what was next as they waited in this shelter. I delighted in the rituals they had for one another as boys were told they would be reunited with sponsors. This ritual included clapping, whistling, pulling back one's mattress to choose treasures for the journey and inviting friends to choose something from their belongings. They would hurry off to pack their 'new duffle bags' with clothes and toiletries for the journey and return to the big group, offering fist bumps, hugs, tears, and joyful waves goodbye as they left, often in groups of 40. The boys also enjoyed the opportunity to get their hair cut any way they wanted, and they delighted in one another's "new look." And watching them play soccer was amazing! It was no wonder that they wore out their shoes. At least 30 balls were on the roof of the coliseum. They had to aim low if they wanted to keep their soccer balls!

I learned when I got home that 70 percent of the boys were reunited, but 30 percent were not. Those who are not with sponsors are in other shelters or foster care. Some may be in group homes if there is still hope for a connection with family. I wonder about these boys, and I pray that they are safe and will find families that love and nurture them. One thirteen-year old boy from Guatemala, Daniel, came to tell me goodbye and told me (through an interpreter) that he wants to be a lawyer. I began to wonder about the other boys and what they had thought about those 30 days they walked to get to the border.

These boys have so much life ahead of them, and I hope they can have a chance to pursue their dreams. It's difficult to understand the challenges that they face. But for those two weeks, we were united in efforts to care for them, and in turn, they showed gratitude, respect, and love.

Sr. Susan Barber, OSB

Sr. Susan Barber's reflections continue below in some of the Haiku poems she created to share with her community:

*Tight security
Keeping migrant boys, teens safe:
Many check-in points.*

*Supplies changed daily
Workers 24/7
A huge production.*

*Socks, shoes, soccer balls,
Monetary gift and more--
Gratefully received.*

*30 boys per pod
"Floaters" gave leaders rest, breaks;
We were the "floaters." ☺*

*Boys' dining hall flags:
Honduras, El Salvador,
And Guatemala.*

*Moving on third day--
Boys from two dorms into one:
Space for indoor sports.*

*Striking paradox:
Scarce room offered for "faith space":
Rosaries, cards, prayer.*

*Pod numbers lessened;
Many boys discharged at night
To other shelters.*

*Photos of final days
Showed fewer cots, greater space-
Music lifted moods.*

*Music ministers
Sang and offered prayer with boys;
Faith carried their hopes.*



Immigration Updates

Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP)/Remain in Mexico

- ◆ **6/1/21:** The U.S. has formally ended the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) policy [also known as Remain in Mexico], which forced tens of thousands of asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico for U.S. court cases. *Reuters*, 6/1/21
- ◆ **8/13/21:** District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk, in Amarillo, TX, issued a nationwide order stopping the government from canceling the Remain in Mexico policy. *WSJ*, 8/14/21
- ◆ **8/20/21:** The Biden administration asked the Supreme Court to block lower-court orders to reinstate the Remain in Mexico policy. Justice Samuel Alito, issued a temporary stay granting the government's request through Aug. 25 so that the court could consider the matter. He gave Texas and Missouri, which filed suit to preserve the Remain in Mexico policy, until Aug. 24 to file a response. *WSJ*, 8/21/21
- ◆ **8/24/21:** The Supreme Court ruled that the Biden administration must reinstate the Remain in Mexico policy. *Axios*, 8/24/21

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- ◆ **7/16/21:** Judge Andrew Hanen blocked the administration from approving new DACA applications (current recipients will remain unaffected for now). The judge ruled that the Department of Homeland Security could continue to process DACA renewals for now. *Politico*, 7/16/21

Zero Tolerance Policy

- ◆ **6/8/21:** The Reunification of Families Task Force determined that a total of 3,913 children were separated from their families at the Border between July 1, 2017 and January 20, 2021. *DHS*, 6/8/21

Asylum Seekers

- ◆ **6/29/21:** The Supreme Court ruled that deported noncitizens who re-enter the U.S. illegally and claim asylum must remain in custody while their cases are processed. *WSJ*, 6/29/21
- ◆ **7/30/21:** The U.S. resumed fast-track deportation flights for migrant families arriving at the border. *Reuters*, 7/30/21
- ◆ **8/17/21:** At least 5,000 immigrants have arrived at a makeshift camp in Reynosa, Mexico. *Univision News*, 8/17/21
- ◆ **8/18/21:** The administration proposed a rule that aims to avoid placing asylum-seekers in yearslong case backlogs by allowing asylum officers to adjudicate claims instead of immigration court judges. *US News*, 8/18/21
- ◆ **8/24/21:** A report compiled by Human Rights First tracked 6,356 attacks [kidnappings and sexual assaults] against migrants who were expelled to Mexico by U.S. border officials since January. *CBS News*, 8/24/21
- ◆ **8/24/21:** Through July, Border Patrol officials found 383 dead migrants, the highest toll in nearly a decade, and one already far surpassing the 253 recovered in the previous fiscal year. *New York Times*, 8/24/21
- ◆ **8/24/21:** The House approved a budget resolution clearing the way for a massive \$3.5-trillion social spending bill later this year. The budget outline includes contentious provisions. For immigration, the goal is to provide a pathway to lawful permanent residence for undocumented children, people who arrived from unsafe countries and farm workers. Lawmakers hope to approve the bill and send it to President Biden by October 1. *USA Today*, 8/24/21

Title 42—Public Health Safety Act

- ◆ **8/2/21:** The administration indefinitely extended the public health order, known as Title 42, that allows border agents to expel migrants caught crossing the border illegally, depriving them of the right to seek asylum in the United States. *US News*, 8/3/21

Border Wall

- ◆ **7/20/21:** Texas state troopers began arresting and charging migrants with trespassing for climbing a border fence built on private land in Del Rio, TX. *Texas Tribune*, 7/30/21
- ◆ **7/23/21:** The administration is canceling two border wall contracts in the Laredo, TX sector that span roughly 31 mi. *CNN*, 7/23/21
- ◆ **8/13/21:** The Texas Department of Transportation is set to pay nearly \$25 million for the construction of a 2-mile concrete barrier in Eagle Pass, TX. *Texas Tribune*, 8/13/21

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

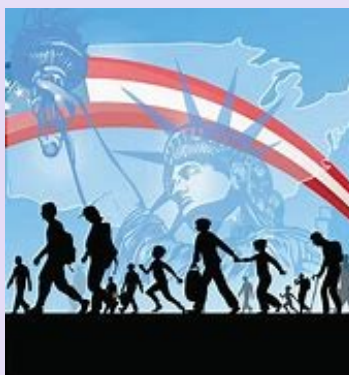
- ◆ **8/19/21:** District Judge Drew Tipton issued a nationwide preliminary injunction halting a pair of memos that directed ICE to prioritize arresting national security threats and felons or gang members who pose a risk to public safety. *Washington Post*, 8/19/21

Ban on Nonessential Travel

- ◆ **8/20/21:** The U.S. government extended a ban on nonessential travel until at least September 21, along the borders with Canada and Mexico to slow the spread of COVID-19. *San Antonio Express-News*, 8/20/21

Texas in the News

- ◆ **6/1/21:** Gov. Gregg Abbott instructed state authorities to stop the licensing of shelters and foster care programs housing migrant children by August 30. That could impact 52 state-licensed shelters and foster care programs in Texas with more than 8,600 beds. *CBS News*, 6/4/21
- ◆ **6/16/21:** Gov. Abbott announced he was putting a \$250 million down payment on a state-led project to build a border wall. *Washington Post*, 6/16/21
- ◆ **7/28/21:** Gov. Abbott issued an executive order restricting the ground transportation of migrants in Texas. The order prohibits nongovernment individuals and organizations from transporting migrants who have been released from custody. *Texas Tribune*, 6/17/21
- ◆ **8/3/21:** U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone in El Paso, blocked the executive order by Gov. Abbott that banned the transportation of migrants within the state by anyone other than law enforcement. *WSJ*, 8/3/21
- ◆ **8/13/21:** Judge Cardone extended her order blocking Gov. Greg Abbott's directive to state troopers to pull over drivers transporting immigrants by another two weeks according to a court filing. *Texas Tribune*, 8/13/21
- ◆ **8/24/21:** A Texas House committee advanced House Bill 9 which would appropriate nearly \$2 billion to pay for prosecuting migrants for trespassing, building border barriers such as fencing and dispatching state troopers to the border to arrest migrants. *Texas Tribune*, 8/24/21



FY 2021 Southwest Land Border Demographic by Month				
Month	Family Units	Single Adults	Unaccompanied Children	Total
October	4,634	59,725	4,690	69,049
November	4,172	60,522	4,475	69,169
December	4,248	62,041	4,853	71,142
January	7,066	62,564	5,688	75,318
February	19,289	69,088	9,265	97,642
March	53,413	97,090	18,719	169,222
April	48,298	108,501	16,902	173,701
May	40,815	117,925	13,885	172,625
June	50,049	113,474	15,026	178,549
July	76,056	105,032	18,689	199,777
Total	308,040	855,962	112,192	1,276,194

Source: *U.S. Customs and Border Protection*, data current as of 8/18/21

Laudato Si: Seasons of Creation

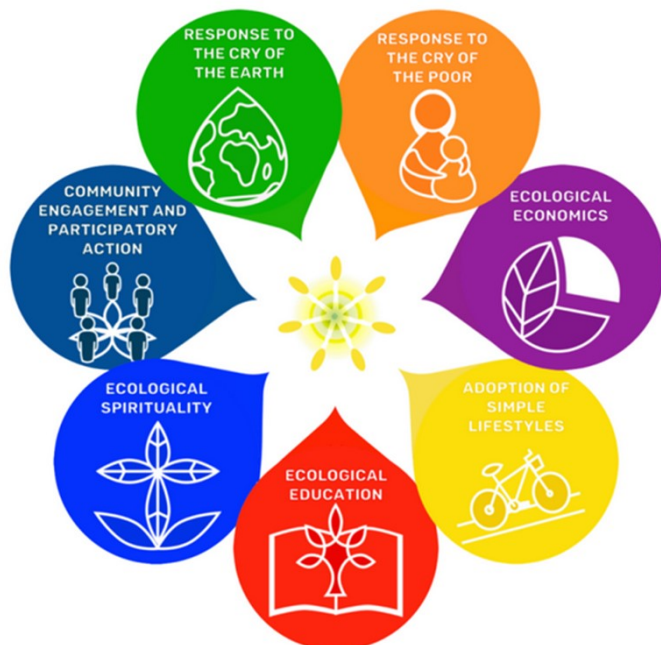


Image source: LaudatoSi.org

Laudato Si Action Platform Update

On the Feast of Saint Francis Asisi, October 4, the official launch of the multi-year journey into exploring **Laudato Si** will take place. This approach hopes to integrate culture, experience, and talents "as together all of creation grows in greater love for the Creator, one another, and the home we share."

LCWR, Update, July 2021

On the 6th anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si, Pope Francis has asked religious congregations throughout the world to make a seven-year commitment to hearing the cry of the Earth as it reflects the cry of the poor -- an ecological conversion illustrated in a document from the Passionist Congregation as a comprehensive resource for education and action. The resource is entitled:

WEBLIOGRAPHY FOR LAUDATO SI

This resource highlights and focuses on the seven goals of the Laudato Si organization's seven-year plan:

- ✦ Response to the Cry of the Earth
- ✦ Response to the Cry of the Poor
- ✦ Adoption of a simple lifestyle
- ✦ Ecological economics
- ✦ Ecological education
- ✦ Ecological spirituality
- ✦ Community engagement and participatory action

Eight pages of resources direct communities toward a wide range of action plans. The Passionist Community approach is to revise this resource guide with additional resources and best practices from communities and organizations as we integrate ourselves into the Pope's vision and share ideas and actions that work.

This Webliography can be found on the Laudato Si website: www.LaudatoSi.org - Laudato Si Goals.

Pope Francis announces theme for the 2021 World Day of Migrants and Refugees: Towards an Ever Wider "We"

In a message to the faithful on May 3, Pope Francis announced the theme of the September 21 World Day of Migrants and Refugees. His prayer below may be a way for communities to continue their work through the Seasons of Creation in preparation for responding the "Cry of the Poor."

*Holy, beloved Father,
your Son Jesus taught us
that there is great rejoicing in heaven
whenever someone lost is found,
whenever someone excluded, rejected or
Discarded is gathered into our "we",
which thus becomes ever wider.*

*We ask you to grant the followers of Jesus,
and all people of good will,
the grace to do your will on earth.
Bless each act of welcome and outreach
that draws those in exile into the
"we" of community and of the Church,
so that our earth may truly become
what you yourself created it to be:
the common home of all our
brothers and sisters. Amen.*

Global Catholic Climate Movement Monthly Prayer

Catholic communities are encouraged to participate in a global prayer for the success of the Seasons of Creation campaign on the first Friday of every month. In order to make this a truly global event, the prayer service can be accessed on YouTube and will begin at 5:00 pm in Rome and 11:00 am in the Eastern Time Zone.

Various Catholic environmental groups will lead future First Friday prayers.

We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.

Pope Francis
Laudato Si, #139



Coronavirus

Questions about the COVID-19 third vaccine shot?

1. Will the government pay for the third vaccine shot? In the future, will we have to pay or will our insurance cover the cost?
2. Will a third shot protect us from future variants?
3. Will we have to take an additional shot every few months? Every year?
4. Will children need to receive a third shot after they have been fully vaccinated?
5. Will a third shot be mandatory?
6. The UK's official scientific advisory group believes there may be a variant that will beat the current vaccine (Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, Gov.UK, 7/30/21). Should we start preparing to go back into a lockdown for a longer period of time?
7. With the third shot, will we see an end to the pandemic?



The image is from a train station in London. Photo by James Cameron.

The Delta Variant and COVID-19 Vaccines: What to Know

- The Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus was first identified in India in late 2020. It has spread to at least 85 countries, according to the World Health Organization.
- Scientists who have studied this variant, estimate it is 40% to 80% more infectious than the Alpha variant, which was found in England in 2020, and more contagious than the virus that emerged in China in 2019.
- In a recent study of 4000 healthcare workers, people who became infected with COVID-19 after getting an mRNA vaccine carried less virus and had shorter cases than unvaccinated people who became infected. Doctors and virologists say that vaccinated people are likely spreading less virus from the Delta variant, but perhaps not as little as with other variants because Delta is known to be more contagious in general.

Jared S. Hopkins and Robbie Whelan, **Wall Street Journal**, 7/27/21

COVID-19 Vaccine Timeline Worldwide

- As of August 25, 5.04 billion vaccines have been administered worldwide, equal to 66 doses for every 100 people.
Josh Holder, New York Times
- All passengers and workers on commercial air flights in Canada will soon have to provide they've been vaccinated against the coronavirus no later than October.
Bill Chappell, NPR, 8/13/21
- Australia has purchased about 1 million doses of Pfizer's vaccine from Poland to add to its efforts in Sydney, which has entered a snap lockdown amid record new infections.
Paulina Duran, Reuters, 8/15/21
- Ireland is looking into "vaccine passes" to fully open its hospitality industry. Establishments will be expected to scan a QR code on the certificate to verify they are fully vaccinated.
Jonathan Keane, CNBC, 8/2/21
- Pfizer and Moderna have raised the prices of their vaccines in the European Union.
Reuters, 8/1/21
- Germany announced that it will offer Pfizer and Moderna booster shots to a wide range of people considered potentially vulnerable starting in September.
New York Times, 8/2/21

COVID-19 Vaccine Third Shot Timeline

- **7/8/21:** Pfizer/BioNTech requested the U.S. FDA approve a 3rd dose of its vaccine after receiving a strong antibody response from a 3rd dose trial. The FDA said in a statement that 3rd doses for the U.S. are premature at this point.
Alice Park, Time, 7/15/21
- **7/15/21:** Both Moderna & Pfizer are studying different versions of their vaccines as a possible 3rd dose, while J&J is studying the effects of a 2nd dose of its vaccine.
Alice Park, Time, 7/15/21
- **7/23/21:** Pfizer/BioNTech said the U.S. has purchased 200 million additional doses of their COVID-19 vaccine to help with the pediatric vaccination as well as possible booster shots – if they are needed.
Reuters
- **7/26/21:** Pfizer & Moderna to expand studies of vaccines in 5 to 11-year-olds.
Sarah Ruiz-Grossman, Huffpost
- **8/3/21:** The FDA aims to fully approve the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine as early as September, hoping to build the public's confidence and mute misinformation. J&J recipients can make a special request to get a "supplemental dose" of Pfizer or Moderna in San Francisco.
Sharon LaFraniere & Noah Weiland, New York Times; Berkeley Lovelace Jr., CNBC
- **8/4/21:** The World Health Organization called for a moratorium on COVID-19 3rd shots until at least the end of September to address the shortfall of vaccine supplies to poor countries.
Stephen Fidler, The Wall Street Journal
- **8/5/21:** Moderna to complete submission to the FDA in August for full approval of its COVID-19 vaccine.
Felicia Schwartz and Matt Grossman, The Wall Street Journal
- **8/9/21:** The Pentagon will seek to make vaccinations mandatory for active-duty military "no later" than mid-September.
Helen Cooper and Jennifer Steinhauer, New York Times
- **8/13/21:** The FDA and CDC authorized 3rd doses of both the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines for certain immunocompromised people.
Jacqueline Howard, CNN
- **8/17/21:** The U.S. will begin offering 3rd COVID-19 shots in September for American who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, 8 months after they become fully vaccinated.
Courtney Subramanian, USA Today
- **8/23/21:** The FDA granted full approval to Pfizer/BioNTech's coronavirus vaccine (Comirnaty) for people 16 and up. The decision will set off a cascade of vaccine requirements by hospitals, colleges, corporations and other organizations.
Sharon LaFraniere and Noah Weiland, New York Times
- **8/25/21:** J&J reports it has evidence that people who received its one-shot vaccine could benefit from a booster shot after 6 months. They are planning to submit results to the FDA to help make a case for authorizing a booster at 8 months, even though the study was given at 6.
Joe Hernandez, Joe Neel and Rob Stein, NPR

Climate Updates

Snapshots of the Impact of Global Warming

Global warming continues, a direct result of the burning of fossil fuels throughout the globe. The science underpinning this correlation can be seen in much of the reporting since our last newsletter went to press. Here are a few examples:

* The measure of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has reached the highest levels since accurate measurements began 63 years ago. Scientists from Scripps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported today that levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide peaked in May, reaching a monthly average of nearly 419 parts per million. This report estimates that humans continue to add about 40 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide pollution to the atmosphere each year, and that avoiding catastrophic changes to the climate will require reducing that number to zero as quickly as possible.

"Despite Pandemic, level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere hits historic levels," Brady Dennis, Steven Mufson, *The Washington Post*, 6/7/21

* A new scientific study organized by France's Laboratory of climate and Environmental Sciences concludes that peatlands throughout the world store about 30% of global soil carbon, and that the mass conversion of these carbon-rich peatlands for agriculture could have added over 250 billion tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, which is equivalent to more than seven years of current emissions from fossil fuels. Peatlands actually pull carbon out of the atmosphere reducing global warming, until they are disturbed. When peatlands are drained, the ancient plant matter stored in peat begins to disperse as the oxygen in the air accelerates decomposition.

"An enormous missing contribution to global warming may have been right under our feet," Chris Mooney. *The Washington Post*, 6/5/21

* A piece in *The New Yorker* adds to the climate change conversation with quick tidbits of information:

- According to Newsha Ajami, director of urban water policy at the Water in the West Initiative, the megadrought in the Northwest is due to the aridity caused by climate change. "Snow melts faster. There's more evaporation."
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting between 13 and 20 named storms during this Atlantic hurricane season.
- Despite the pandemic lockdowns in 2020, 40 million people worldwide fled their homes, the highest number in a decade. The vast majority of these refugees were displaced by storms and floods.

"*The Climate Crisis*," *The New Yorker*, 5/26/21

Extreme Weather Around The World

Floods

- **6/26/21:** A storm in Detroit unloaded 6 inches of rain over a five-hour period, leaving much of the city underwater.
- **7/8/21:** More than an inch of rain fell in a single hour in New York City, inundating subway stops.
- **7/15/21:** Up to 7 inches of rain fell on parts of Germany over a 12-hour period, the equivalent of two months' worth of rainfall for the region.
- **7/18/21:** The Mumbai international airport reported more than 9 inches of rain in 24 hours. *Yahoo News*, 7/19/21
- **7/25/21:** England's weather agency, Met Office, recorded 1.65 in. of rain (a month's worth) in London. *AP*, 7/26/21

Wildfires

- **7/18/21:** The Sakha-Yakutia region in northeastern Siberia has been affected by 187 fires. *AP*, 7/18/21
- **7/21/21:** Nearly 300 active wildfires have been reported in the province of British Columbia, Canada. *CNN*, 7/22/21
- **7/24/21:** A large fire broke out on the Italian island of Sardinia, burning over 11,000 hectares. *European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations*, 7/29/21
- **7/25/21:** The Catalonia region of Spain has seen its biggest forest fire this year, with more than 3,000 acres burned in less than 24 hours. *BBC News*, 7/27/21
- **7/26/21:** Greece's Prime Minister said that firefighters had battled around 50 fires across the country. *CNN*, 7/28/21
- **7/25/21 — 7/31/21:** 105 wildfires devastated local communities in Turkey. *NewsWeek*, 8/2/21
- **8/15/21:** The Bootleg fire which burned across 413,000 acres for 39 days—is 100% contained. *Oregonian*, 8/15/21
- **8/18/21:** The Dixie Fire has scorched more than 940 square miles in the northern Sierra Nevada and southern Cascades since it ignited on July 13. *AP*, 8/18/21

High Temperatures

- **6/18/21:** The city of Mexicali in Baja California, Mexico reached a scorching 125 F°.
- **6/20/21:** The ground surface temperature in Siberia was a shocking 118F°.
- **6/21/21:** Moscow, recorded a temperature of 94.5 F°, making it the hottest day since 1901. *Forbes*, 6/22/21
- **8/15/21:** The temperature in the city of Montoro, Spain, soared to 117.3 degrees, setting a record high for Spain. *Washington Post*, 8/16/21
- **8/20/21:** July was the hottest month on Earth since record-keeping began 141 years ago, and June was the hottest month on record in the continental U.S., according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- **8/21/21:** Researchers at the highest point of Greenland's ice sheet observed rain there for the first time on record. *Wall Street Journal*, 8/20/21

Historic heatwave, extreme drought and wildfires plague North American western areas

The summer of 2021 is shaping up to be one for the record books, with much of the American west gripped by historic heatwaves, extreme drought, and the threat of large wildfires that have already begun to burn across the region. The crisis has also extended into Canada, with temperatures in British Columbia soaring to 118F (46.6C) on June 28, shattering records for the area where few are set up for such intense heat.

In Portland, light rail and street car service was suspended as power cables melted and electricity demand surged. Heat-related expansion caused road pavement to buckle or pop loose.

The Pacific northwest has warmed about 3F (1.7C) in the past half-century, making this extreme heatwave even more dire. Blackouts were reported throughout the region as people trying to keep cool with fans and air conditioners strained the power grid. Drought conditions continue. At least 48 large fires are already burning, exhausting resources across the region.

The Guardian, 6/30/21



Photo of drought impact on Lake Mead from KNAU Arizona Public Radio



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

BCRI — Next ZOOM meeting — Sept. 22, 2021
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) — Oct. 12-15, 2021 (Virtual conference)
 Mar. 31, 2022 — 50th Anniversary Gala
Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) — Oct. 26-29, 2021 (Virtual)

THANK YOU, MEMBERS and DONORS

Our Members:

- **Mount St. Scholastica** (Atchison, Kansas)
- **St. Scholastica Monastery** (Boerne, Texas)
- **St. Benedict Monastery** (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)
- **Mount St. Benedict** (Erie, Pennsylvania)
- **Emmaus Ministries** (Erie, Pennsylvania)
- **St. Scholastica Monastery** (Fort Smith, Arkansas)
- **Sacred Heart Monastery** (Lisle, Illinois)

- **Emmanuel Monastery** (Lutherville, Maryland)
- **Holy Wisdom Monastery** (Madison, Wisconsin)
- **Monasterio de San Benito** (Mexico City, D.F.)
- **St. Gertrude Monastery** (Newark, Delaware)
- **Immaculata Monastery** (Norfolk, Nebraska)
- **Mount Saviour Monastery** (Pine City, New York)
- **St. Mary Monastery** (Rock Island, IL)
- **Holy Name Monastery** (St. Leo, Florida)
- **Christ the King Priory** (Schuyler, Nebraska)
- **Monasterio Pan De Vida** (Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico)
- **Mother of God Monastery** (Watertown, South Dakota)
- **Sacred Heart Monastery** (Yankton, South Dakota)

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Our Donor Friends:

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The Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

P. O. Box 200423 San Antonio, TX 78220 Phone: 210-281-4422 (temporary)

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) _____