



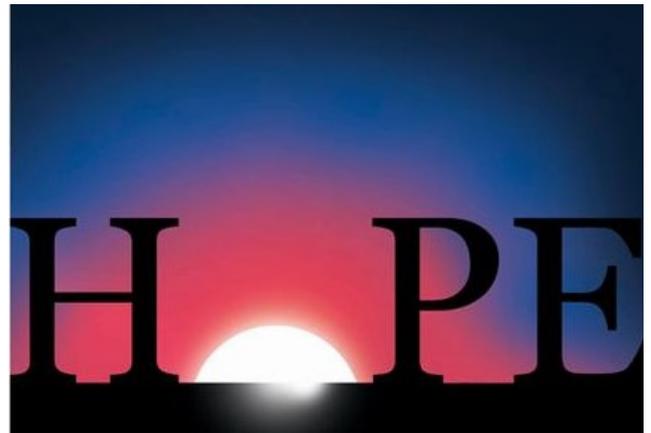
# Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

Spring 2021 – Issue 27

## Signs of Hope During the Pandemic

When we began working remotely a year ago, I thought the whole world was going into lockdown and would re-emerge two to three weeks later with the virus under control. That proved to be wrong.

During these months, we have continued to meet with companies, raise questions, file shareholder resolutions, “appear” at virtual shareholder meetings, raise our voices to promote justice. We have written letters to the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) as the agency tries to curtail small shareholders’ voices and make it harder to raise important issues. The SEC Commissioners are taking another look at the rule changes put into place late in 2020.



With the Easter season upon us, we reflect on how far we have come. The vaccines were developed in a rapid manner, aided by a decade of research on other viruses/illnesses. The measures in place (masks, hand sanitizers, PPE, social distancing) became a way of life. We know that many monasteries have experienced sickness and death of members from the virus. We stand in solidarity with you and all those affected by this.

The work of raising questions became more intense. We met (by ZOOM):

- with workers who were concerned about working conditions.
- with corporations which had the means of raising wages for essential workers, providing PPE, changing the dynamics by producing vaccines.
- with our members to keep all of us updated.

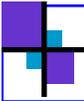
### Inside This Issue:

P. 2	Shareholder Resolutions
P. 3	2021 Resolution Overview
P. 4	U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Chart
P. 5	Reflection: A Stranger on the Road
P. 6	Hope Springs Eternal
P. 7	The Work Continues
P. 8	Immigration Update
P. 9	By the Numbers
P. 10	Climate Change
P. 11	Reminders for our Time
P. 12	Membership and Thank You

The issues we track continue to develop. The immigration and COVID-19 concerns are front page news. Each day there are stories about the weather and changes in the patterns. In Texas, we experienced a 10-day weather event that no one will soon forget. It is estimated that we were within 4 minutes and 37 seconds of our electrical grid failing totally.

Pope Francis is embarking on processes to implement his encyclical, *Laudato Si*. This will be a seven-year journey toward sustainability for the universal church. There is an effort to develop the concept of “inclusive capitalism” ... capitalism benefitting the common good, not just the few. This has been a theme in his writings.

Much remains to be done/said/re-imagined/implemented.



# 2021 Shareholder Actions

## ABBVIE

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure*

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## ALPHABET

### *Report on Government-Mandated Content Removal Requests*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

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

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

## AMAZON.COM

### *Hourly Associate on Board of Directors*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

### *Civil Rights, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Audit*

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

## BOEING

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure*

Benedictine Sisters — Chicago, IL

## BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB

### *Independent Board Chair*

Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

## CHEVRON

### *Environmental Justice and Racial Equity Analysis*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

## CITIGROUP

### *Report on Reducing GHG Emissions Associated with Financing Activities*

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

## COMCAST

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## CVS HEALTH CORPORATION

### *Feasibility of Paid Sick Leave as a Standard Employee Benefit*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION

### *Paris-Aligned Climate Lobbying*

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## EXXON MOBIL

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

### *Climate Change Impacts on Financial Position and Assumptions*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## HOME DEPOT

### *Workforce Diversity Report*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## IPG PHOTONICS CORPORATION

### *Report on Steps to Address Board Diversity*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## J. P. MORGAN CHASE & CO.

### *Measure and Disclose Financed GHG Emissions*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## JOHNSON & JOHNSON

### *Civil Rights Audit*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

### *Access to COVID-19 Products*

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*

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*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## PFIZER

### *Access to COVID-19 Products*

Monasterio de San Benito, Mexico City

## PHILLIPS 66

### *Paris-Aligned Climate Lobbying*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## REGENERON PHARMACEUTICALS

### *Access to COVID-19 Products*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## TYSON FOODS

### *Human Rights Due Diligence*

Benedictine Sisters — Mount St. Scholastica

## UNITED PARCEL SERVICE

### *Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure - Climate Change*

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

## VALERO ENERGY CORPORATION

### *Paris-Aligned Climate Lobbying*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

## WALMART STORES, INC.

### *Starting Pay and Racial Equity*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX





# U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Information Chart

Company	Pfizer/BioNTech	Moderna/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	Johnson & Johnson
<b>Efficacy &amp; Doses</b>	95% efficacy as of 11/9/20. 2 doses at 21 days apart; Dilute with sodium chloride solution, turn upside down/back again 10 times before injection. (WSJ 12.14.20)	94.1% efficacy as of 11/16/20. 2 doses at 4 weeks apart Immunity expected to last at least 1 year (Reuters 1.11.21)	72% (US), 64-85% (South African & other variants) & 100% efficacy against hospitalization and deaths. 1 dose. (NY Times 2.27.21)
<b>Storage Temperature &amp; Expiration</b>	Pfizer has designed temperature controlled thermal shippers that maintain storage temperature conditions of -94°F for up to 10 days unopened. (Pfizer)	Stored in freezer between -13°F & 5°F for up to 6 months or store in refrigerator between 36-46°F for up to 30 days. Once thawed, cannot be refrozen. (Moderna)	Estimated to remain stable for 2 years at -4°F and a maximum of 3 months at 35.6-46.4°F (Fiercepharma 2.12.20)
<b>Distribution</b>	Approved for Emergency Use 12.11.20 by FDA. Fully enrolled trials for children aged 12-15. (CNN 1.22.21)	Approved for Emergency Use 12.18.20 by FDA. Testing on children 6 months to 11 years old (WSJ 3.16.21)	Approved for Emergency Use 2.27.21 by FDA. Vaccines for children under 18 available by September. (CNN 1.22.21)
<b>Government Cost</b>	US-\$19.50 per dose EU-\$18.90 per dose (Reuters 12.23.20)	\$32-\$37 per dose in developed countries, but cheaper in others (MSNBC 08.2020)	\$10 per dose (MSNBC 08.2020)
<b>Response to new variants from the UK and South Africa</b>	Pfizer/BioNTech began their evaluation of safety & immunogenicity of a 3rd dose of their vaccine to understand the effects of a booster on immunity against COVID-19 caused by emerging variants (Pfizer 2.25.21)	Moderna completed assembly of clinical trial material for its variant-specific vaccine against the South African variant and has shipped doses to the National Institute of Health for Phase 1 trials (Moderna 2.24.21)	57% efficacy against South African variant. J&J are tailoring a version of its vaccine with protein patterned after the new variants (NY Times 1.29.21)

## Why are Vaccines important?

Lowering the possibility for a pathogen to circulate in the community protects those who cannot be vaccinated (due to health conditions, like allergies, or their age) from the disease targeted by the vaccine.

#VaccineRolloutStrategySA



### Questions for pharma companies

During the past year, we have used the members' shares in pharmaceutical companies to raise questions about the vaccines, their development and distribution. Some of these questions include:

- ◆ Did your company take monies from the U.S. government to facilitate your research? If yes, what impact did that have?
- ◆ What restraints are you using to price the vaccines? What is the "pandemic" price? What is the "post-pandemic" price? Who will say when we are in "post-pandemic" mode? How will distribution be available world-wide?
- ◆ At what point might a booster be needed? What are the logistics and the price?

## Vaccines Administered in the United States as of 3/22/2021:

- ◆ About **81.4 million** people have received one or both doses of the vaccine, which includes about **41.9 million** fully vaccinated people.
- ◆ **156.7 million** doses have been distributed.
- ◆ **24.5%** of the population are partially vaccinated and **12.6%** are fully vaccinated.
- ◆ In the last week, an average of **2.49 million** doses per day were administered, a **4%** increase over the week before.
- ◆ **Novavax (96% efficacy)** and **AstraZeneca (79% efficacy)** could be the next two vaccines released in the U.S. by May 2021. *Washington Post/Wall Street Journal*

## Vaccines Administered Worldwide as of 3/22/2021:

- ◆ More than **448 million** vaccine doses have been administered worldwide, equal to **5.8 doses for every 100 people**.
- ◆ Less wealthy countries are relying on a vaccine-sharing deal called Covax, which aims to provide 2 billion doses by the end of 2021.
- ◆ **10** different vaccines are being administered around the world.
- ◆ **23** vaccines are currently running their Phase 3 trials.

*New York Times*

This is a snapshot in time.

*When he was questioned on the safety of the polio vaccine he developed, Dr. Jonas Salk replied: "It is safe, and you can't get safer than safe."*

# Reflection: A Stranger on the Road

*Editor's Note: As indicated in our last newsletter, this issue will spend some time exploring the richness of the latest encyclical by Pope Francis, **Fratelli Tutti**. Although there are many nuances, themes and threads coursing through the document, one stands above the rest in capturing the Pope's intent. Time and again, he returns to the Gospel Parable of the Good Samaritan as both message and challenge to us in this critical historical moment. Here, we pose reflection starters to capture the significance of this parable in the context of your work, your ministry today.*

***"The Good Samaritan story 'eloquently presents the basic decision we need to make in order to rebuild our wounded world... [O]ur only course is to imitate the Good Samaritan. Any other decision would make us either one of the robbers or one of those who walked away...'" Fratelli Tutti [67]***

Where do we see ourselves in this story? How committed are we to a compassionate sharing of what we have? How often do our time constraints for our own ministry allow us to bypass helping another? When have we, as individuals or as community, walked away? How have the constraints of this pandemic hindered our ministry?



***"And, if we extend our gaze to the history of our own lives and that of the entire world, all of us are, or have been, like EACH of the characters in the parable. All of us have in ourselves something of the wounded man, something of the robber, something of the passers-by, and something of the Good Samaritan."*** [69]

In what way(s) does this passage open our eyes to how we have acted as each character in the story? When were we the wounded one? The robber? The passer-by? The Good Samaritan? What circumstances were (or are) in play to have caused us to be each of these people?

***"Let us now return to the parable of the Good Samaritan, for it still has much to say to us. An injured man lay on the roadside... bruised and abandoned... a distraction... an interruption... hardly important... a nobody... undistinguished... irrelevant..."*** [101]

In our telling of the story, we must remember that the injured man and the Samaritan were certainly not neighbors. In fact, open hostility was the only thing they – and their people – shared. The descriptions Pope Francis lays out should have been barriers to any interaction between them. And yet, the Samaritan ignored all those labels and "classifications" to be the true neighbor. Are there barriers to your individual, or to your community's recognition of the worth of others? Can those roadblocks be removed? How?

***"What would be the reaction to that same story nowadays ... ? [102] Solidarity finds concrete expression in service, and service in great part means 'caring for vulnerability, for the vulnerable members of our families, our society, our people.' Service always looks to their faces, touches their flesh, senses their closeness and even, in some cases, 'suffers' that closeness and tries to help them. Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people."*** [105]

The Parable of the Good Samaritan ends well, especially for the wounded man. Jesus, always the good teacher, knew the art of bringing home the message. A powerful question ends the tale: Who is this man's neighbor? Your ministry, your community's work, reflects this Gospel story. Take a few minutes to celebrate your giftedness to the Church and to the world. How have you been neighbor? And your community? (Don't be shy!)

# Hope Springs Eternal

The Easter season offers bountiful opportunity to reflect on new hope, new life and a new look at the promises our God has made to us throughout history. We are reassured when we visit the words of Genesis, spoken by God to Abraham, and through him, to all of us. "I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore... and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing." (Gn. 12:2-3)

In spite of the constrictions this pandemic has placed on our lives, we breathe in — hopeful and grateful that God has blessed us abundantly, and through our work, the earth shall find blessing in us.



**Only in God is my soul at rest.**

In the midst of our anticipation of the renewed hope which Easter will bring, we lift up our sympathy and prayers for all the members of our communities, families and friends who have died because of this disease. Our lives have been enriched by their presence, their gifts, their work and ministry.

Rest in peace, faithful friends.

## LENT SISTER CLAUDINE LEE

A smudge of ashes  
Cacophony has ceased  
Gone the scenes of dancing Bourbon,  
Charles Canal silenced.  
Away with the masked forays  
Into red-light districts.  
'Tis a somber, joyful world  
Readying for the passion,  
death Of our great Love.  
"Greater love hath no man  
Than he lay down his life  
For a friend."  
I try, Lord, to give in kind,  
My gifts are squandered,  
My love diluted,  
I have nothing.  
Lord, take my nothing.  
Make of it a wondrous thing.  
Awaken my strange silence,  
Give me the note so I can sing.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

From the website of **Saint Scholastica  
Monastery**, Ft. Smith, AR

## SOME SIGNS OF HOPE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

✦ Christ the King Priory has begun to accept registered guests at their retreat center, St. Benedict Center. A prospective retreatant is invited to prayer with these reflective words: "Imagine waking up to a golden sunrise over a glassy lake, taking a walk amongst beautiful landscaping and flowers... or simply enjoying the peace and quiet of a tranquil setting away from the hustle and bustle of daily life."

✦ Sr. Barbara writes from Atchison that now, community members can visit their own Sisters in assisted living and nursing care within the monastery. As another sign of hope, the community has announced that it will reopen the monastery and grounds to visitors effective June 1, 2021.

✦ Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison, WI, has begun a slow reopening of select ministries. The Retreat and Guest House became available for personal retreats around January 18, and the grounds and nature trails are now open to visitors. The community expects to host small-group retreats towards the end of March.



## Celebrating Catholic Sisters Week

This video highlights Benedictine monastic life as we celebrate Catholic Sisters Week, Mar. 8-14. Please feel free to share the link with anyone.

<https://youtu.be/utyERqYAxqE>

## From Emmanuel Monastery E-News, Lutherville, MD, a reminder of the Good Zeal in the Rule of Benedict:

"They should each try to be the first to show respect to the other," supporting with the greatest patience one another's weaknesses of body or behavior, and earnestly competing in obedience to one another. No one is to pursue what is judged better for self, but instead what is judged better for someone else. To their companions they show the pure love of sisters or brothers; to God, loving fear; to their prioress/abbot, unfeigned, humble love. Let them prefer nothing to the love of Christ, and may Christ bring us all together to everlasting life. (RB Chap. 72)

"Zeal for your house has consumed me." (Ps. 69:9) These words from the psalm are attributed to Jesus as he tries to bring the buyers, sellers, and pray-ers who have lost a sense of right relationship with the God they claim to love and worship, to the truth of what they are really doing. A zealous heart can easily become an angry heart; and an angry heart can help us to know what we really care about, and how easy it is to lose perspective on where to direct our zeal when human foolishness loses sight of God's wisdom.

*Editor's Note: This is an excerpt of a reflection by Sr. Roberta Bailey, Holy Name Monastery, St. Leo, Florida. It connects the Scriptures of Lent with the ways the pandemic has changed our perspectives.*

## I Am Here - Waiting - Day or Night - Let's Talk

Today, I believe, God is telling us: "I did not send COVID-19 to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through my Son." It's a wake-up call. "Like I said to the prophet Isaiah these many years ago. I am the designer and maker of the earth. Remember in Genesis, at the creation of life on this earth, I looked on all that had been created, and I said: 'It is good. ... For, I am God, there is no other. I will not speak in secret nor from some dark place. I did not say: Look for me in chaos. I promise justice, 'the public face of love'. I speak the truth. Turn to me and be safe. Say: From God alone comes strength and safety.'"

God continues speaking to us. "You were correct, when a year ago this week, you posted that sign on the chapel door: we regret that we are TEMPORARILY closed to visitors. All time is temporary in My eyes until you rest in ME eternally. Today I tell you, just as I welcomed a midnight conversation with Nicodemus, I am here – day or night – for you. What's on your mind or weighing heavy on your heart? Let's talk."

— Sister Roberta Bailey, OSB

# The Work Continues

In spite of the constraints that a year of quarantine has placed on our communities, our ministry, and our corporate responsibility focus, our ability to hold corporations accountable has continued. Although our monasteries have remained closed, a particularly difficult constraint on the hospitality that is a hallmark of monastic life, no "Closed for Business" sign has been posted on Coalition issues.

The past history of Coalition meetings is that we gathered at the annual RCRI meeting held each fall. Since Covid-19 has postponed every gathering of that size, we have been unable to meet at that event. Consequently, the Coalition has now conducted three ZOOM meetings as a way to stay in touch and stay focused on items of import in our challenges to corporations.

The next Coalition ZOOM meeting is scheduled for late April. Information for accessing the meeting will be included in the next Benedictine CRI update.

The graphic to the right reinforces the theme of hope throughout the pages of this newsletter. The work of the Coalition presses on, as our members continue to overcome the obstacles placed in our way.



## WELCOME, EMMAUS MINISTRIES!

The Coalition welcomes our newest member, Emmaus Ministries, an outreach of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, PA.

Emmaus Ministries lives its motto: "Bread for the Body, Care for the Soul" by offering a Christian presence and social outreach in Erie, Pennsylvania. A ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Emmaus opened the doors of its soup kitchen in 1974. In 1983, the ministry expanded to include a food pantry, and today also serves the poor of the city through an after-school center for children, a women's advocacy program, and Emmaus Grove, a garden whose volunteers harvest over 2,000 pounds for guests each year. Emmaus Ministries, with its staff and over 300 volunteers, commits itself to the forgotten and the faceless of society.



*Please join with the Emmaus community in reciting this prayer daily.*

### Prayer of St. Vincent DePaul

You will find that charity is a heavy burden to carry, heavier than the kettle of soup and the basket of bread.

But you must your gentleness and your smile keep.

Giving soup and bread isn't all that you can do.

The poor are your masters-terribly sensitive and exacting as you will see.

But the more demanding they seem the more unjust and bitter the more you must give them your love.

## In Memoriam



We pause in our busy world to lift up special people who have contributed to the work of the Coalition and now rest in God's gentle, loving arms:

### Sr. Mary Ann O'Ryan (St. Scholastica Monastery, Chicago):

Sr. Mary Ann, as treasurer, encouraged her monastery to participate in actions. For years, she faithfully went to the Boeing, McDonald's and Hilton shareholder meetings in the Chicago area to present resolutions and ask questions on behalf of religious shareholders. She helped our Benedictine coalition by taking minutes, conducting meetings, doing whatever was needed when we met in person.



### Sr. Henry Marie Zimmerman (St. Benedict Monastery, Bristow, Virginia)

Sr. Henry Marie Zimmerman, as treasurer, delighted in filing shareholder resolutions for her monastery. She often said that when she went to table, she would share with her Sisters what direction her work had taken her for the day. She would send a message to us, "It's done!" meaning she had filed. She encouraged the members of the coalition to keep asking the questions and be on the cutting edge of issues.



### Rev. Edward A. Krueger (Edinburg, Texas)

Ed gave valuable, life-long service to lifting up the voiceless, especially those exploited along the U.S./Mexico border even before NAFTA paved the way for the maquiladora industry expansion. He was a co-founder of the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras which focused on the areas of worker safety, just wages, and corporate responsibility. His dedication earned him numerous awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from Cesar Chavez's La Union del Pueblo Entero and the Texas Civil Rights Project's Henry B. Gonzalez Civil Rights Award.



# Immigration Update

## Here are the executive actions related to immigration President Biden has completed:

- Proclamation - 2/24/2021: Revokes a Trump-era proclamation that limited legal immigration during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Executive Order - 2/4/2021: Expands the United States Refugee Admissions Program and rescinds Trump policies limiting refugee admissions. President Biden has set an annual admissions cap of 125,000.
- Memo - 2/4/2021: Directs relevant agencies to ensure LGBTQI+ refugees and asylum seekers have equal access to protections.
- Executive Order - 2/2/2021: Revokes the order separating families at the border and creates a task force to identify and reunite families separated under the controversial "zero tolerance" policy.
- Executive Order - 2/2/2021: Addresses the economic and political causes of migration, works with organizations to protect asylum seekers, ensures Central American asylum seekers have legal access to the U.S., rescinds previous policies and guidelines, and initiates a review of policies "that have effectively closed the border to asylum seekers."
- Executive Order - 2/2/2021: Rescinds policy requiring immigrants to repay the government if they receive public benefits, elevates the executive branch role in promoting immigrant integration and inclusion, reestablishes the Task Force on New Americans, and requires agencies to review all immigration policies.
- Memo - 1/20/2021: Fortifies DACA reversing efforts to undo protections for undocumented people brought into the country as children.
- Proclamation - 1/20/2021: Reverses restrictions on U.S. entry for passport holders from seven Muslim-majority countries.
- Executive Order - 1/20/2021: Undoes the immigration enforcement expansion in the U.S.
- Proclamation - 1/20/2021: Halts construction of the border wall by terminating the national emergency declaration used to fund it.

*Christopher Hickey, Curt Merrill, Richard J. Chang, Kate Sullivan, Janie Boschma and Sean O'Key, CNN, 2/19/2021*



## Defining government directives

**Executive Order:** This is an official, legally binding mandate passed down from the president to federal agencies under the executive branch. Essentially, an executive order gives agencies instructions on how to interpret and carry out federal law.

**Executive Memorandum:** This is essentially an executive order, but the difference is that an executive memorandum does not have an established process for how the president issues it.

**Proclamations:** These are largely used for ceremonial purposes and usually don't carry any legal effect.

*Julie Percha, PBS News, 7/11/2019*

## Trump's wall: How much has been built during his term?

Various types of fencing totalling 654 miles were already in place before Mr. Trump became president in 2017. The Trump administration completed 452 miles of border in total. However, only 80 miles of new barrier has been built where there was none before, including 47 miles of primary wall and 33 miles of secondary wall built to reinforce the initial barrier. Around \$15 billion spent for the construction of the barrier has come from various U.S. government agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, and the Defense and Treasury Departments.

*Christopher Giles, BBC News, 1/12/2021*

*Editor's note: The 1,987-miles long U.S./Mexico border runs from San Diego to Brownsville.*

## Migrant Protection Protocols Update

On January 29, 2019, the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) were implemented in San Diego, and the program quickly spread across the border. By October 2020, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has sent 68,430 asylum seekers to seven Mexican border cities: Tijuana, Mexicali, Nogales, Ciudad Juárez, Piedras Negras, Nuevo Laredo, and Matamoros. While CBP has sent more than 68,000

asylum seekers to Mexico as part of MPP, with 22,777 pending cases in MPP courts along the border (there are several thousand more pending cases in interior U.S. courts). In El Paso, there are 9,381 pending cases, followed by 5,591 cases in Brownsville, 4,758 in San Diego, and 3,047 in Laredo.

*Stephanie Leutert and Savitri Arvey, Robert Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas at Austin, 12/3/2020*

## Biden restarts program for migrant minors amid surge

The administration is restarting the Central American Minors (CAM) program for children, which between 2014 and 2017 allowed children fleeing violence in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to apply for refugee resettlement in their home countries. To date, the program has reunified almost 5,000 children with their parents.

*Andrea Shalal, Steve Holland, Mimi Dwyer, Reuters, 3/10/2021*

## Texas family detention centers expected to transform into rapid-processing hubs

Two Texas family detention facilities located in Dilley and Karnes counties will become short-term centers that will screen migrant parents and children with a goal of releasing them into the United States within 72 hours, while the Pennsylvania facility, Berks Family Residential Center, will no longer house families. Officials are considering turning Berks into a women-only center.

*Julia Ainsley, NBC News, 3/6/2021;*

*Maria Sacchetti, Nick Miroff and Silvia Foster-Frau, Washington Post, 3/4/2021*

## FY 2021 Southwest Land Border Demographic by Month

Month	Family Units	Single Adults	Unaccompanied Children	Total
October	4,634	59,722	4,690	69,046
November	4,170	60,516	4,476	69,162
December	4,248	62,041	4,853	71,142
January	7,064	62,554	5,694	75,312
February	18,945	68,732	9,297	96,974
Fiscal Year Total	39,061	313,565	29,010	381,636

Source: *U.S. Customs and Border Protection, data current as of 3/3/2021*

# By the Numbers

## Challenges at the Border

### Number of migrant children in US custody passed 15,000

• The number of migrant children in U.S. custody has passed 15,000, **CBS News** reported Saturday (3/20/2021). Of the 15,500 unaccompanied migrant minors, over 5,000 are currently held by CBP. This leaves 10,500 in Health and Human Services custody. ICE confirmed an \$80-million contract with hotels to provide temporary shelter for migrant families, freeing up space to shelter and process unaccompanied minors. CBP prioritizes them for processing, and then coordinates with HHS's Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) for housing.

*Jordan Williams, THE HILL, 3/20/2021*

• The U.S. government plans to house as many as 3,000 15-17 year-old immigrant teens at the Dallas Convention Center due to border overcrowding.

*Merchant/Bleiberg, AP NEWS, 3/15/2021*

### Detention Facilities

• On Mar. 2, the Donna, TX complex held more than 1,800 people — 729% of its pandemic-era capacity, which is 250 migrants, according to an internal CBP document. On Feb. 21, the facility was holding 854 children.

*Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 3/12/2021*

• U.S. border officials will open another tent facility near Eagle Pass to cope with soaring numbers of migrant families and children crossing into the U.S.

*Nick Miroff, Washington Post, 2/26/2021*

• On February 2021, the administration reactivated the temporary Influx Care Facility in Carrizo Springs, TX to house up to 700 immigrant teenagers (ages 13-17) who crossed the U.S./Mexico border unaccompanied by a parent or guardian.

*Franco Ordoñez, NPR, 2/25/2021*



### Census delays are scrambling the once-in-a-decade redistricting that will shape the 2022 midterms

For many reasons the 2020 Census, required by the Constitution to use population data as a way to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives, has been dramatically affected. Beginning with the pandemic and its resultant undercounting of residents because of curtailed door-to-door contact with those not submitting the Census form, gathering accurate population data has been hampered tremendously.

Weather also played a significant role in this undercount. The wildfire explosion on the West Coast and hurricanes in the East contributed to the accuracy of Census data. In addition, court proceedings about who should be counted consumed much of the focus throughout 2020.

Ultimately, reporting the results has been pushed back from Constitutional deadlines — state apportionment numbers (it fixes how many congressional seats each state is entitled to and due Dec. 31) and state redistricting numbers (which allow states to draw redistricting boundaries based on the “one person, one vote” doctrine of the Constitution and due Mar. 31).

In Feb. the U.S. Census Bureau released new guidelines for the official reporting of the 2020 Census count. Data needed to draw equal-population political boundaries (redistricting) will not be released until Sep. 30, 2021 — reporting usually furnished to the states by Mar. 31.

*Grace Panetta, Business Insider, 2/22/2021*

### On Voter Suppression

Voter suppression continues to be an approach to restricting the ability for marginalized communities to have equal and fair access to the right to vote. This suppression takes many forms, but the target of voter suppression often seeks to minimize the impact of voters in disadvantaged regions.

Barbara R. Arnwine of the Transformative Justice Coalition has provided a thorough listing of different methods for achieving such targeted voter suppression. Several have been used in the past, and many are still being used in state legislatures throughout the country. In fact, since the 2020 elections, many state legislatures have begun to formulate laws to further restrict access and opportunity, even reversing laws they had put in place because they were dissatisfied with the outcomes this past November.

Here are some instances of voter suppression referenced in Arnwine's list:

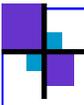
- ◆ Strict voter photo ID laws
- ◆ Failure to accept certain photo IDs, such as Native American tribal IDs and government-issued student IDs
- ◆ Cuts to, or removal of, early voting days
- ◆ Reductions in polling places, especially on tribal lands, college campuses, and sites easily accessible by public transportation
- ◆ Creation of complicated absentee ballot requirements
- ◆ Purging of inactive voters without notification that voters have been removed
- ◆ Racial and party-preference gerrymandering
- ◆ Failure to accommodate voters with disabilities
- ◆ Lack of accommodation for voters displaced by natural disasters

Each of these and so many other suppression tactics diminish the voices of those we serve in our ministries. Now, more than ever, we should work to counteract these blatant attempts to silence the voices of those who are disadvantaged in the communities we serve.

*Editor's note: To access Barbara Arnwine's full list, 61 Forms of Voter Suppression, from the Transformative Justice Coalition, go to [VotingRightsAlliance.org](http://VotingRightsAlliance.org).*

*“If voting didn't matter much, foreign governments wouldn't try to influence it. And if voting didn't matter much, we wouldn't see efforts in America to make it harder for certain people to vote. Your vote does matter.” — Kim Wehle*

[What You Need to Know About Voting--and Why](#)



# Climate Change

*“Climate change, if unchecked, is an urgent threat to health, food supplies, biodiversity, and livelihoods across the globe.”* -John F. Kerry

## Boats stranded as Venice’s famous canals dry up

The history of Venice’s picturesque canals is one of seasonal high water (acqua alta) and low water (acqua bassa). The cycle of high water usually affects the city from October through March; however, on March 3, the canals completely emptied way ahead of the seasonal shifts.

Unprecedented flooding in December caused tides 5-feet high, followed by the early onset of acqua bassa March 3. Venice’s mayor, Luigi Brugnaro, maintains that “the rapidly alternating water levels are linked to climate change.”

*Christopher, **Intelligencer**, 3/3/2021*

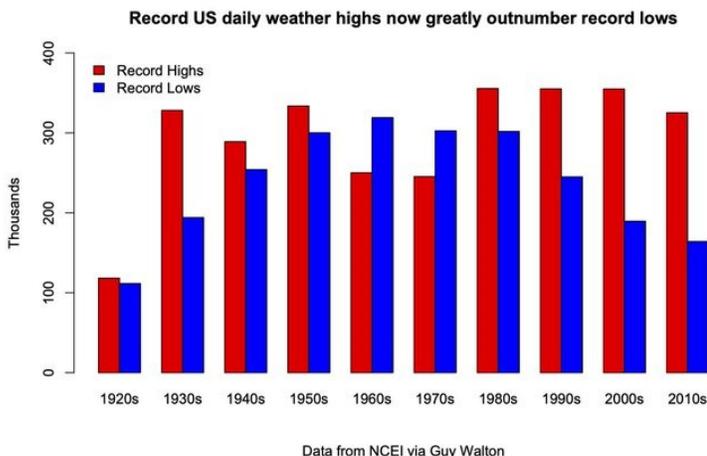
## How Climate Change Is Fueling Extreme Weather

An article posted to the website [earthjustice](http://earthjustice.org) on 2/17/21 outlines several factors that indicate weather extremes are becoming more frequent and more diverse. The article lists the following climate anomalies:

- ❖ Winter storms have hit harder. (Scientists believe the rapid warming of the Arctic has given rise to more frequent polar vortex disruptions).
- ❖ Hurricanes are becoming more intense. (On 8/27/20 Hurricane Laura rapidly strengthened to a CAT 4 over the nearly 90°F Gulf of Mexico waters, with resulting devastation.)
- ❖ Sea level rises cause flooding (Ocean waters warm and expand, while higher temperatures cause land ice to melt).
- ❖ Wildfires are burning longer and wider. (California wildfires burned more than 3 million acres in 2020, with 5 of the largest fires on record occurring over the last 3 years).
- ❖ Extreme heat is getting hotter. (An example from Austin, Texas gives evidence. Over the past 50 years an additional month’s worth of temperatures above 100°F annually is now the norm.)
- ❖ Drought conditions persist. (The American West is currently experiencing a mega drought far worse than any in centuries, according to Columbia University’s Earth Institute).

Solutions offered by [earthjustice](http://earthjustice.org) include moving beyond fossil fuels and clearing the way for clean energy.

The chart below is from the **Climate Extreme Index (CEI)**, a research arm of NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information, showing the numbers of record highs and lows in US cities over the last 100 years.



## From the Frozen Climate Change Bunker ...

As most everyone knows, many Southern states experienced a once-in-a-hundred-year Arctic blast of cold air lasting from Feb. 14-18, 2021. Having survived this frigid weather and accompanying crises, it is perhaps important to view the impact of these events through a wider global lens.

Many millions of people have been affected by what some are calling “The Big Freeze.” Consequences have been, and in some cases still are, devastating.

⌘ Food banks in Texas went into disaster mode to tackle results of the unprecedented freezing and disruption of the supply chain. “Grocery stores are empty, school meal programs suspended, and deliveries disrupted by untreated, treacherous roads that have left millions of Texans trapped.”

*Nina Lakhani, “This is a disaster: Texas faces dwindling food supplies amid Arctic conditions,” **The Guardian**, 2/19/2021*

⌘ “At the other end of the food chain, fruit and vegetable crops in the Rio Grande Valley have been ruined by the extreme cold, while dairy farmers across the state are pouring millions of dollars of milk down the drain because they cannot get it to dairies.”

*Lakhani*

⌘ Wildlife of varying kinds have been affected, too. According to news reports from KRIS 6 News in Corpus Christi, Texas, nearly 200 cold-stunned turtles have been found beached on North Padre Island, while “waves of dead fish” washed ashore on Feb. 14 (Tim Griffin, 2/15/21). In San Antonio, the director of Primarily Primates reported that several birds and animals froze, as the power grid failed when temperatures dropped into the single digits.

*“Animals at primate sanctuary freeze amid Texas power outage,” **Associated Press** writers, 2/16/2021*

⌘ Drinking water supplies were decimated in Texas, Oklahoma and many parts of the South. A continuing disaster is occurring in Jackson, Mississippi, as reported in the **Mississippi Clarion Ledger**: “About 65% of residents in Ward 6 (South Jackson) have no water,” and are relying on tanker trucks and water distribution sites to get through. A resident spoke to the situation: “I appreciate the tanks. I appreciate the bottled water. But I[’d] rather have the pipes fixed. It’s one thing to put a Band-Aid on the problem and it’s one thing to fix it.”

*Sarah Hassehorst, “A 14-day Band-Aid is long enough: Many South Jackson residents still have no running water,” 3/1/2021*

*“Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security, and women’s empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all.”*

Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary General  
2007-2016

# Reminders for our Time



*"There is no such thing as 'away'. So, when we throw anything away, it must go somewhere."* Annie Leonard

**Inclusive Capitalism** is a global movement to engage leaders across business, government, and civil sectors and encourage them to practice and invest in ways that extend the opportunities and benefits of our economic system to everyone. This movement encompasses the following ideas: equality of opportunity; equitable outcomes; fairness across generations; and fairness to those in society.



*As a rule, the advance of this kind of globalism strengthens the identity of the more powerful, who can protect themselves, but it tends to diminish the identity of the weaker and poorer regions, making them more vulnerable and dependent. In this way, political life becomes increasingly fragile in the face of transnational economic powers that operate with the principle of "divide and conquer."*

*Pope Francis  
Fratelli Tutti [12]*



The theme for the 2021 observance of Earth Day is **Restore Our Earth**, which focuses on natural processes, emerging green technologies, and innovative thinking that can restore the world's ecosystems. According to EARTHDAY.ORG, "In this way, the theme rejects the notion that mitigation or adaptation are the only ways to address climate change. It is up to each and every one of us to Restore Our Earth not just because we care about the natural world, but because we live on it. We all need a healthy Earth to support our jobs, livelihoods, health & survival, and happiness. A healthy planet is not an option — it is a necessity."

In this 51st year of reflecting on Earth Day as an opportunity for communities and nations to come together to "save the Planet," the organization has noted that more than 1 billion people in 192 countries actively participate in Earth Day activities each year. This makes Earth Day the largest civic observance in the world.

**Together, we have the power to  
Restore Our Earth.**



Socially Responsible Investment Coalition

## SAVE THE DATE – via ZOOM

SRIC Annual Educational Event will take place:  
**April 27, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. Central Time**

*Don't miss this opportunity to learn about Inclusive Capitalism — a movement involving corporate leadership and Vatican guidance which encompasses the following ideas: equality of opportunity, equitable outcomes, fairness across generations and fairness in society.*

## Can Inclusive Capitalism Work for the Common Good?

### Invited Participants

**Rev. Séamus Finn, OMI**

Chief of Faith Consistent Investing at the  
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

**Larry Hufford, Ph.D.**

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

**Anna Falkenberg, Ph.D., Moderator**

Executive Director

For more information contact Anna Falkenberg at  
**[afalkenberg@srlic-south.org](mailto:afalkenberg@srlic-south.org)**



# 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

**Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI)** — Oct. 26-29, 2021  
**Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)** —  
Jun. 21-25, 2021  
Oct. 18-22, 2021  
Oct. 20, 2021 — 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
**BCRI** — By ZOOM until further notice

## THANK YOU TO OUR 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** (Torreón, Coahuila, Mexico)
- **Mother of God Monastery** (Watertown, South Dakota)
- **Sacred Heart Monastery** (Yankton, South Dakota)

### Our Partner Community:

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

### Our Donor Friends:

- **St. Benedict Monastery** (Bakerstown, PA)
- **Annunciation Monastery** (Bismarck, ND)
- **Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert** (Blanco, NM)
- **Monastery Immaculate Conception** (Ferdinand, IN)
- **Saint Benedict Monastery** (St. Joseph, MN)
- **St. Paul Monastery** (Saint Paul, MN)
- **Weston Priory** (Weston, VT)
- **Glastonbury Abbey (grant)** (Hingham, MA)
- **Gerry Allen**
- **Lady Ellen and Gerald Clark**
- **Victor Munoz**
- **Eugenia Schuler**



## 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) \_\_\_\_\_