



Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

Winter 2022 — Issue 30

Light Shines through the Darkness and Hope Follows



“Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness.”

Anne Frank

When we look at our world, what do we see? Sometimes, it is difficult to focus on the areas of hope and light. We see the suffering and resistance of those in Ukraine at the hand of the Russians. We see money buying influence and power. We see the need for reform in our immigration system, as thousands cross borders each day. We see the need for updated laws to govern many issues we are facing—such as gun violence. We see companies settling lawsuits for billions of dollars over their involvement with opioids. Three years in, we live with the impact COVID-19 has had on people, on policies, on health care systems and on mind-sets. We see the nations struggling at the COP27 meeting in Egypt to embrace a path forward and tackle environmental challenges.

The challenge is to keep raising our voices and using our financial power to call for and to make changes. We long for the day when things might be more perfect. We use the tools we have. St. Benedict mentions the “tools for good works” in Chapter 4. In our ministry, those tools include using the monies/funds and processes available to raise questions on what type of world do we want to pass on to the next generations.

In this issue, we see that 37 of the 2022 shareholder resolutions received a majority vote. This is historic. When this happens, we follow up with the companies to see how they will implement what is asked. Our group is part of the lawsuit to vacate the 2020 new rules from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which place restrictions on small shareholders and their participation in this process of questioning companies. The 14a-8 process was established in 1934.

A number of Benedictine monasteries attended the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) meeting in October—the first in-person meeting in several years. It was good to renew acquaintances and make new friends. Many of the break-out sessions were topics we discuss at our regular ZOOM gatherings.

We see hope in the actions that monasteries are embracing in the immigration arena. We feature a few of these in this newsletter.

We continue to educate ourselves and those associated with us about how the actions we take today will affect the quality of life for people and the planet in the near-term future. We can make a difference ... by asking the difficult questions and insisting on receiving firm answers. The light we shine can be small and then lead to a burning fire. We will only get there when we light the candles to dispel the darkness. This “tool” of shareholder engagement is one of many that we have to raise questions. We use the stocks we own to voice our hope for change...lighting one candle at a time.

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2022 Shareholder Resolutions

ALPHABET

Government-Mandated Content Removal Requests—Withdrawn

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Paris-Aligned Climate Lobbying—18.97%

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

AMAZON.COM, INC.

Gender and Racial Pay Gap—28.82%

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Worker Health and Safety Audit—Omitted

Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict, Rock Island

ANTHEM, INC.

Racial Equity Audit—41.20%

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB COMPANY

Independent Board Chair—44.80%

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

CATERPILLAR INC.

Human Rights Risks in Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas Policies—On Proxy

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

CHEVRON CORP.

Racial Equity Audit—48%

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

CITIGROUP

Respect for Rights of Indigenous Peoples—34%

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

COCA-COLA COMPANY

Racial Equity Audit—Withdraw

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Rapidly Reduce Dependence on Single-Use

Plastic Packaging—Agreement

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

DENNY'S CORPORATION

Increase Starting Wages—4.20%

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

DISNEY (WALT) COMPANY / ABC

Lobbying Expenditures Disclosure—34.27%

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict, Rock Island

DOLLAR GENERAL CORPORATION

Improving the Company's Chemical Footprint—Agreement

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION

Audited Report on Impact of IEA

Net-Zero Emissions by 2050 Scenario—52%

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

FIVE BELOW

Sustainable Accounting on Chemicals Policy—Agreement

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

GILEAD SCIENCES, INC.

Lobbying Alignment—50.22%

Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict, Rock Island

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

J.P. MORGAN CHASE & CO.

Financing Consistent with IEA

Net Zero 2050 Scenario—10.90%

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

JOHNSON & JOHNSON

Access to COVID-19 Products—33.80%

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

LOCKHEED MARTIN CORPORATION

Paris-Aligned Climate Lobbying—Agreement

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

META (FACEBOOK INC.)

Human Rights Impact Assessment—23.80%

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

MONDELEZ INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Racial Equity Audit—47.85%

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

SEI INVESTMENTS COMPANY

EEO-1 Disclosure—Agreement

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

TYSON FOODS, INC.

Racial Equity Audit—Agreement

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

UNITED PARCEL SERVICE, INC.

Paris-Aligned Climate Lobbying—33.20%

Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

Monasterio Pan de Vida, Torreon

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL



2022 Shareholder Resolutions

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP INC. *Paris-Aligned Climate Lobbying—Agreement*

Monasterio Pan de Vida
Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica

VALERO ENERGY CORPORATION *Disclose Near & Long-Term GHG Reduction Targets—47.11%*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

WALMART STORES, INC. *Starting Pay and Racial Equity—13.40%*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

WELLS FARGO & COMPANY *Financing Consistent with IEA Net Zero 2050 Scenario—11%*

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS YEARS:

HOME DEPOT, INC. *Racial Equity Audit—62.80%*

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX

MCDONALD'S CORP. *Phase Out Medically Important Antibiotics in Supply Chain—Agreement Reached in 2019*

***Waiting for report on reduction of antibiotics in beef supply chain—report due in 2022

Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, TX
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore—Emmanuel Monastery
Benedictine Sisters—Mount St. Scholastica
Benedictine Sisters—Chicago, IL
Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL

Shareholder Rights and SEC Rule Changes to 14a-8

In what is being seen by investors as a major setback for corporate transparency and shareholder democracy, the SEC announced on September 23, 2020 the imposition of new rules severely restricting shareholders' access to the corporate proxy by limiting the filing of resolutions. The SEC's move comes after years of lobbying by powerful industry trade associations that have sought to limit shareholder engagement with corporations on critical environmental, social, and governance issues.

The new rules will significantly limit investors' ability to submit these proposals by raising the thresholds of ownership both in terms of the number of shares and length of time they must be held. Before the new rule, a shareholder who has held shares in a company for at least a year needed to hold at least \$2,000 in shares. Under the new rule, new purchasers of stock must hold \$25,000 in shares for at least a year, or hold \$2000 in shares for at least three years.

In addition, the new rules make it much more difficult to refile a proposal that has been voted on. The prior rule required 3% support on a first-year vote, 6% on a second vote, and 10% on a third vote to keep a proposal before a company's shareholders. Now resubmission will require 5% on a first vote, 15% on a second vote and 25% on a third vote. This will stifle deliberation by shareholders on emerging issues. *The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), 2022*

Decision On 14a-8 Case Further Postponed

The federal judge in charge of our collective lawsuit to vacate the new 14a-8 rules enacted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in 2020 has extended the date to make his decision public. The new date is now February 23, 2023. This is the fourth postponement.

We entered the 2023 Proxy Season under the new rules. The chart below shows the rules we currently operate under.

*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.
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

ICCR's Comment: The SEC's Proposed Exclusion Rules

ICCR has joined together with the Investor Rights Forum, CERES, the Council of Institutional Investors, US SIF, PRI, and other stakeholders to defend shareholder rights. Together, they are pressing key decision makers to preserve Rule 14a-8 in its present form, as the most effective and efficient means for shareholders to communicate with boards of directors, corporate management, and their fellow shareholders. As a result, in September of 2022, ICCR issued comments on the proposed 14a-8 rule changes regarding exclusions related to Substantial Implementation, Substantial Duplication, and Resubmission. You can read ICCR's Comment letter to the SEC by visiting: https://www.iccr.org/sites/default/files/page_attachments/iccr_comment_file_no._s7-20-22.pdf



For those interested in learning more about Shareholder Rights and SEC Rule Changes to 14a-8, please visit: <https://www.iccr.org/our-work/shareholder-engagement-and-proxy-process/shareholder-rights-and-sec-rule-changes-14a-8>

ICCR: Catalyzing Corporate Change

2022 Majority Votes

ICCR-member resolutions won 37 majority support votes in 2022, a sharp increase over the 20 won in 2021. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) resolutions (12) accounted for the largest percentage of these, followed by climate-focused resolutions (10), and governance proposals (6).



A Review ICCR'S 2022 Proxy Season

The proxy season of 2022 saw a record year for our coalition, as filings by our members rose to 504, the highest number ever recorded, and up sharply from 307 in 2021. New resolution topics more than doubled last year and included carbon credits, competitive employment standards, and ghost guns.

Banking was the leading industry receiving ICCR member proposals. There was also an increase in the number of companies receiving multiple filings, an indication of investor concern about their ESG risks. The most successful proposals requested lobbying expenditures disclosure, racial equity audits, and Paris-aligned climate lobbying.

Despite restrictive changes to SEC rule 14a-8, our members filed a record-breaking 504 resolutions in 2022, versus 307 last year. While many of our members increased the number of proposals they filed, some of this increase was also due to new members joining our ranks. Resolutions addressing the climate crisis, and racial justice/DEI were the most numerous, with 120 and 109 proposals respectively. 42% of all resolutions went to a vote, while 34% were withdrawn for agreement.

Catalyzing Corporate Change: 2022 Proxy Season Recap, ICCR, 2022

2022 Resolutions Winning Majority Support

Company & Lead Filer	Topic	Vote
NANOSTRING TECHNOLOGIES Led by Jim McRitchie	Governance	99.8%
NCINO Led by Jim McRitchie	Governance	98.8%
CHEVRON CORP. Led by Mercy Investments	Climate	98.0%
2U Led by Jim McRitchie	Governance	97.9%
CATERPILLAR Led by As You Sow	Climate	96.0%
JACK IN THE BOX Led by Green Century	Lobbying	95.0%
BOEING Led by As You Sow	Climate	91.4%
US FOODS HOLDING Led by Green Century	Climate	88.5%
BUILDERS FIRSTSOURCE Led by Green Century	Climate	87.6%
AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES Led by Jim McRitchie	Governance	81.7%
CHUBB LIMITED Led by As You Sow	Climate	72.2%
COSTCO WHOLESALE Led by Green Century	Climate	69.9%
TWITTER Led by Whistle Stop Capital	DEI	68.9%
STURM RUGER Led by CommonSpirit Health	Human Rights	68.5%
WARRIOR MET COAL Led by SEIU	Governance	66.5%
HOME DEPOT Led by Green Century	Climate	65.0%
IBM Led by Clean Yield	DEI	64.7%
MAXIMUS Led by SEIU	DEI	64.0%
CONSTELLATION SOFTWARE Led by SHARE	DEI	62.8%
HOME DEPOT Led by SEIU	DEI	62.8%
JOHNSON & JOHNSON Led by Mercy Investments	DEI	62.6%
ALTRIA GROUP Led by Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia	DEI	62.2%
STERICYCLE Led by SEIU	DEI	60.6%
NETFLIX Led by Boston Common	Lobbying	60.4%
DISNEY (WALT) / ABC Led by Arjuna	DEI	59.0%
IQVIA HOLDINGS Led by Jim McRitchie	Governance	58.6%
LOWES Led by Arjuna	DEI	58.0%
INVITAE Led by Jim McRitchie	Governance	56.3%
THE TRAVELERS COMPANIES Led by As You Sow	Climate	55.8%
WASTE MANAGEMENT Led by SEIU	DEI	55.0%
DOLLAR TREE Filed by As You Sow	Climate	54.8%
APPLE COMPUTER Led by SEIU	DEI	53.6%
ALARM.COM HOLDINGS Led by Jim McRitchie	Governance	52.7%
EXXON MOBIL Led by CBIS	Climate	52.0%
PHILLIPS 66 Led by As You Sow	Plastics	50.4%
APPLE COMPUTER Led by Nia Impact Capital*	DEI	50.4%
GILEAD SCIENCES Led by Trinity Health	Lobbying	50.2%

Data gathered from The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)

**DEI refers to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

2022 RCRI (Resource Center for Religious Institutes) National Conference—Dallas Texas



For the first time in several years, the RCRI meeting was in-person in Dallas in October. These sessions focus on financial and legal concerns. Many touch on the issues which the Benedictine CRI follows: investments, policies, and stewardship. Numerous groups that are associate members of ICCR have booths to let participants know about their offerings. (These photos were shared by some of the participants from various Benedictine monasteries.)

Leading With Our Hands And Our Hearts

Missionary Benedictine Sisters—Norfolk NE sponsor Ukrainian family

The Missionary Benedictine Sisters have made the commitment to sponsor a Ukrainian family. There will be a total of around 100 Ukrainians to locate in Norfolk NE. I thought the immigrants would be called refugees but they are Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees. The difference between refugee and parolee is that a refugee is fleeing from their government and a parolee is fleeing from another government trying to take over their government. Our family is Oleksandr, Maryna, Anastasia, Maksym and Evelina. Parolees are granted only a two year visa because the expectation is that they would be able to return to their country. We believe that will not be a reality. Congress is being requested to change that policy. We purchased a house in a housing development just northeast of Norfolk. Sr. Rosann Ocken, Prioress, traveled to Romania to escort the family to the United States.



Sr. Rita Marie Tofflemire submitted this article



Oleksandr, Maryna, Anastasia, Maksym and Evelina

Ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia Celebrates 30 Years of Service

Sister Eileen Heaps and the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia founded BEACON for English Language and Literacy in 1992. Inspired by the Benedictine love of learning, the ministries' humble start began with Sister Eileen Heaps, a retired schoolteacher, tutoring a handful of illiterate adults. This year BEACON for English Language and Literacy celebrates 30 years of service.



Over the years, adult learners from more than 48 countries have attended tutoring, small group, and classroom instruction in a variety of offerings centered around literacy, language, and citizenship. The program has grown to serve more than 400 students each year, now offering classes both in-person and online.



"BEACON has helped so many people, so that we can feel like we have a place here in America and can work toward making a better life for our families." Grace

Powered by a small staff and more than 120 passionate volunteers each year, BEACON **empowers its adult learners to enhance their quality of life through English language and literacy.** For 30 years, BEACON has helped adult learners gain the skills needed to pass the GED, become U.S. Citizens, gain employment, pursue higher education, and help their children with homework. Students complete the program with more confidence, a greater sense of belonging, and hope for a better future.

BEACON celebrated with a series of success stories—30 stories for 30 years.

- One student returned 20 years later to tell staff, "I really appreciate all that the BEACON program did for me and I don't know where I would be if I hadn't been able to take the classes. The teacher was wonderful and so encouraging."
- A refugee shared that, "BEACON truly is a beacon of hope for people like me. BEACON's services are very well tailored for the needs of new immigrants and the friendly environment it has created for people like me, particularly women. I can get my education, something that I would not have imagined at my age and as an illiterate woman in my society in my home country."
- A new naturalized U.S. citizen shared, "I believe that BEACON has helped so many people, not only with my citizenship interview, but also with learning English and the American culture, so that we can feel like we have a place here and can work at making a better life for our families."
- A father told staff that he gained the confidence needed to read to his 5-year-old daughter and he saw her reading improve as a result of their time together.



"I can get my education, something that I would not have imagined at my age and as an illiterate woman in my society back home." Saeema

Sister Andrea Westkamp
Benedictine Sister of St. Benedict Monastery

Bethany House of Hospitality—Chicago IL

Over the past five years, Bethany House of Hospitality has welcomed 74 young women from 19 different countries seeking asylum along with their 23 young children. More recently, six Venezuelan women and one little girl have arrived in Chicago without any place to go and each has called Bethany House their home.

The most dramatic arrival was two persons with a small child who arrived at the Greyhound station after a two-day bus trip, hungry and penniless. The Chicago police fed them and gave them clothing and, then, connected them with Bethany House that very day.

Sister Judith Zonsius
Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery



Leading With Our Hands And Our Hearts

Editor's Note: The personal experience described below, was written by Rayna Schmidt, a volunteer who worked with Sr. Ursula.

I am quickly approaching my one month marker of being in Eagle Pass, TX, helping volunteer at the border and various mission projects. A few of those missions include Mission: Border Hope, Bethesda House, an adult day care, and a couple girls and boys orphanages. Volunteering is often looked at as giving your time and services to those in need around you, but is really quite the opposite. The more of yourself you give to service, the more you receive. So to date, here are some of my favorite memories made during my time here.

- ⇒ A meal prep day in the soup kitchen with an immigrant from Venezuela and an immigrant from Cuba turned into a dance party.
- ⇒ A young girl at the orphanage painted a watercolor portrait of myself, done in all yellow for my blonde hair and light colored skin.
- ⇒ Receiving countless "God Bless You's" from immigrants while handing them their meals at the shelter, many of which were receiving their first home cooked meal in weeks.
- ⇒ Holding a newborn baby of a mom from Honduras.
- ⇒ Young boys at the orphanage running up to me one by one to swing them and throw them in the air.
- ⇒ Meeting so many wonderful people who spend most of their days at the various mission places, devoting their time and love to others, living completely to act as the hands of God on earth.
- ⇒ Taking the residents of Bethesda House out to eat hamburgers and fries at Carl's Jr. They were so excited to go out they had their best clothes on, wore perfume, and were letting out squeals of joy. They all had a smile on their face from ear to ear throughout the entire adventure.

It crosses my mind that when I return to my "every day life" back home I'll have a hard time not having these experiences effect the way I live. But I suppose that's the point. A huge thank you to Sr. Ursula, all the sisters at St. Scholastica in Boerne, and those who helped give me the opportunity to be in Eagle Pass.



Sr. Ursula Herrera and Rayna Schmidt
Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica—Boerne TX

Migrants are our brothers and sisters in search for a better life, far away from poverty, hunger, exploitation and the unjust distribution of the planet's resources which are meant to be equitably shared by all.

*Message of His Holiness Pope Francis
for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2016*

At St. Walburg we have worked with the Kentucky Refugee Project to provide temporary housing for refugees while they work to obtain permanent housing for them. They have stayed in one of our houses that has 7 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. We have had two large families of Afghan refugees and most recently a family of 8 from the Congo. Since we are in a suburban area with

no public transportation we are not an ideal site for permanent housing.

The Afghan families were here during the height of the Covid pandemic so we weren't able to interact with them very much. We did have more interaction with the family from the Congo although their limited English made that difficult. They are Catholic and did join us for Mass on Sundays while they were here.



Sister Nancy Kordenbrock
Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery

The Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore were blessed in 2010 to be able to provide "temporary" housing for a young pregnant Afghan woman seeking asylum. Little did we know at that time that the "temporary" would become more than 2 years as mother and newborn son became part of our life (as did the husband and later 2 other children!). With the encouragement of our development director and the investment of sisters from communities in the Baltimore area, the **Asylee Women Enterprise** took shape and blossomed, providing opportunities for women and men to find support and needed skills that would help them become acclimated to life in the United States.

Over the years, AWE has developed into a free-standing organization which provides legal assistance, a welcoming community, and essential services to help asylum seekers rebuild their lives in the Baltimore area. Over the last decade, AWE has served thousands of vulnerable immigrants from across the world and distributed over four million dollars in financial and in-kind assistance. The Benedictine Sisters are in awe of the work AWE continues to do!



Sister Kathleen White
Benedictine Sisters of Emmanuel Monastery

Vaccines

Nearly 225,000 Americans have died of Covid-19 since the start of 2022 despite viral declines, data shows

Although daily death rates have decreased since August, updated federal data shows hundreds of Americans are dying of Covid every day, and 225,000 people in the U.S. have died from the virus since January.

On average, more than 350 American Covid-19 deaths are reported each day, and, according to the CDC, over the last 7 days, the U.S. has reported nearly 2,500 deaths.

In recent weeks, virus-related hospitalizations have decreased—with 30,000 virus-positive Americans receiving care in the U.S., down from about 33,000 patients in the hospital last week, according to HHS.

Arielle Mitropoulos, *ABC News*, 9/22/22

Moderna is banking on a combined COVID, flu and RSV vaccine. Will it work?

- Moderna is promoting a combined Covid-19, flu and RSV vaccine, which aims to target 3 of the most serious respiratory illnesses circulating each year.
- The pharmaceutical company hasn't released data to support the vaccine's safety or efficacy.
- Moderna's decision to promote its vaccine before completing Phase 3 clinical trials has raised concerns from vaccine researchers and experts about the motivations behind prematurely marketing the shot.

Adam Miller, *CBC News*, 11/12/22

Moderna says new Covid booster better against omicron BA.5, triggers immune response against BQ.1.1

- Moderna's new Covid booster triggered 5 times more antibodies against omicron BA.5 than the old vaccines in people prior to Covid infections and 6 times more in people without prior infections.
- Moderna also said the new booster triggered a strong immune response against BQ.1.1.

Spencer Kimball, *CNBC*, 11/14/22



Pfizer says Covid-19 vaccine will cost \$110-\$130 per dose

Pfizer will charge \$110 to \$130 per dose of its Covid-19 vaccine once the U.S. government stops buying the shots, but Pfizer expects many will continue receiving it for free.

Pfizer executives predict the commercial pricing for adult doses could start early 2023. The company expects people with private health insurance or coverage through public programs, will pay nothing. The Affordable Care Act requires insurers to cover many recommended vaccines without charging any out-of-pocket expenses. Pfizer says there is an income-based assistance program that helps eligible U.S. residents with no insurance get shots.

More than 375 million doses of the original vaccine have been distributed in the U.S., which brought in \$36.78 billion last year, making it Pfizer's top-selling product.

Tom Murphy, *AP*, 10/21/22

Covid Numbers Worldwide—November 2022

Worldwide

Cases: 637,980,847

Deaths: 6,620,735

Vaccinated: 5,013,042,355 (64.5% of the pop.)



USA

Cases: 98,045,405

Deaths: 1,085,150

Vaccinated: 228,154,832 (69.2% of the pop.)



China

Cases: 1,292,056

Deaths: 5,229

Vaccinated: 1,272,227,000 (90.7% of the pop.)



Canada

Cases: 4,419,612

Deaths: 47,688

Vaccinated: 31,669,178 (83.4% of the pop.)



Australia

Cases: 10,560,280

Deaths: 15,980

Vaccinated: 21,784,904 (84.9% of the pop.)



Mexico

Cases: 7,118,933

Deaths: 330,444

Vaccinated: 81,849,962 (64.7% of the pop.)



Google News, November 2022

China clamps down on 'zero covid' protests, loosens some pandemic measures

Small protests against China's strict "zero covid" policy occurred in several cities, as citizens defied a police crackdown and threats of reprisal, with Beijing blaming "foreign forces" even as authorities moved to vaccinate more seniors and relax some distancing measures.

From Hangzhou to Kunming to Beijing, groups of people demonstrated by holding up blank paper—a symbol of state censorship—in solidarity with protesters in Shanghai, the first major city where the recent rallies against the zero covid measures occurred.

China said it would reduce the burden of covid measures on daily life, but central authorities did not offer a road map, and local officials are still expected to quickly curb widespread transmission of cases.

In Beijing, officials pledged not to lock down residential buildings for more than 24 hours at a time. And the southwestern metropolis of Chengdu called off the construction of a massive facility intended to house more than 10,000 people, in a sign that mass centralized quarantine could be on its way out.

Shares in mainland China and Hong Kong slid after the protests began to gain steam. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index was down more than 4% after the market opened. It recovered some ground but closed at 1.6% lower. The Chinese domestic CSI index closed down 1.1%.

Lyric Li, *The Washington Post*, 11/29/22
Chinese Stocks Drop as Covid Protests Intensify, Cases Surge, Rebecca Feng, *The Wall Street Journal*, 11/28/22

Gun Violence / EV Batteries and the U.S. Power Grid

Companies made more than \$1B selling powerful guns to civilians, report says

According to a House Committee report, five gun companies—Bushmaster, Daniel Defense, Sig Sauer, Smith & Wesson, and Sturm, Ruger & Company—made more than \$1 billion over the last decade selling “military-style assault weapons to civilians,” with their revenue surging amid an increase in firearm violence nationwide.

Mark Berman and Todd C. Frankel, *Washington Post*, 7/27/22

Visa, Mastercard, Amex Face Calls From GOP Attorneys General to Abandon Gun-Shop Code

Attorneys general of 23 states are warning Visa Inc., Mastercard Inc. and American Express Co. not to move forward with their plan to add a new code to identify when purchases are made at firearms retailers. The attorneys general said in a letter that the card companies’ plan could lead to the misuse of consumer data and wouldn’t protect the public.

Visa, Mastercard and Amex use merchant-category codes, or MCCs, to identify types of merchants by the goods and services they sell. Merchant codes generally don’t identify the product a card user is buying. Instead, they describe the type of store where a purchase was made. That means transactions with the gun-shop MCC might involve gun purchases, hunting gear or a gun safe, among other things.

Visa, Mastercard and Amex say the new merchant code will function just like others and won’t stop gun purchases from happening. The companies say they won’t allow purchases to be blocked based solely on the merchant code.

AnnaMaria Andriotis, *Wall Street Journal*, 9/22/22

U.S. ready for a battery factory boom, but now it needs to hold the charge

Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Ltd., the world’s largest supplier of lithium-ion batteries, based in Ningde, China, is in discussions with its U.S. customers, including major automakers and energy storage developers, about establishing its first manufacturing hub in North America. Already a big battery production build-out is gathering momentum in North America:

- In September, Ford Motor Co. broke ground on a multibillion-dollar advanced manufacturing complex for electric trucks and lithium-ion batteries in western Tennessee.
- General Motors Co. and LG Energy Solution Ltd., another South Korean battery maker, in July secured a \$2.5 billion loan from the U.S. Energy Department for their Ultium Cells LLC venture. The companies have announced plans to invest at least \$7.2 billion into lithium-ion battery cell plants in Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee.

Garrett Hering, *S&P Global*, 10/3/22

#Gunporn #pewpew: How gunmakers market firearms to young Americans

Weapons like the AR-style guns used in the mass shootings are often marketed on social media through posts tailored to appeal to young adults and teens, gun control advocates and experts say. For example, Daniel Defense’s Instagram account features photos of members of the military holding its weapons, as well as celebrities wielding its products. Among the gunmaker’s favorite hashtags are #gunporn and #pewpew, with the latter referring to the sound effect of guns in television shows and cartoons.

Makers of semi-automatic weapons tend to use three strategies to appeal to younger consumers. First, some ads depict the gun owner as a hero on a mission, while a second approach is to align their weapons with those used by the military or law enforcement. Lastly, gun owners may be portrayed as fighting against some unseen force, like government control.

Aimee Picchi, *CBS News*, 6/8/22

Abbott Tells Uvalde Families Texas Can’t Raise Age To Buy An AR-15. Legal Experts Disagree.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott claims that it is unconstitutional to ban someone between the ages of 18 and 21 from being able to buy an AR-15. So far, at least 7 states – California, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, New York, Vermont and Washington – have passed legislation raising the legal purchase age for sales of long guns and several cases regarding those laws are winding their way through the courts. According to an NPR/Ipsos poll from July 2022, 72% of gun owners and 75% of Americans are in favor of raising the minimum age to buy assault-style weapons to 21.

Taylor Goldenstein, *Austin Bureau*, 9/1/22

Can the Nation's Electrical Grid Support Electric Cars?

According to the Edison Electric Institute, 26.4 million EVs will be on the road by 2030. That’s up from about three million EVs on the road today. Most industry experts agree that the nation’s electrical grid is up to the task of supporting EVs. However, successful EV adoption will rely not only on investments in the grid itself, but also on how and when EV drivers use it to charge their vehicles. A key factor to consider is that the EV revolution won’t happen overnight. That said, gasoline-powered used cars will be on the roads until at least 2045, and likely longer. Many experts believe that a complete transition to electric vehicles will require as much as 1.25 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year. Much of that increased capacity is expected to come from renewable sources, including solar and wind power.

John M. Vincent and Brian McHugh, *U.S. News*, 9/22/22

Considering an electric vehicle? Here’s how to prep your home for one.

Do I need to buy a charger before I get an electric vehicle? Actually, probably not. Almost all electric vehicles come with what’s called a level 1 charger. These chargers plug directly into a standard outlet. Level 2 chargers require a different kind of plug and you’ll need to call an electrician to get one set up.

How do I know if my home can accommodate an electric vehicle? First, the bad news: If you rely on street parking, your home likely can’t accommodate an EV. As long as you’ve got a driveway, a garage or somewhere else to store your car, you can install an electric vehicle charger. These days, you can buy chargers that come with about 25 feet of cable.

How much does it cost to have an EV charger installed? Installation costs vary widely, depending on where you live and how complicated the job is. Most installations end up costing between \$1,500 and \$3,000. That total will balloon considerably if your electrical panel or underlying electrical service needs upgrading. If you need a new panel, expect to pay an additional \$2,000 to \$4,000 on top of the cost of having the EV charger installed. If you need a full electrical service upgrade, expect to pay an additional \$5,000 to \$8,000.

Rachel Kurzius, *The Washington Post*, 9/26/22

Immigration

- On June 13, 2022, the Supreme Court ruled that immigrants detained in the U.S. are not entitled to bond hearings, meaning that the thousands of people with open immigration cases who are currently in federal holding facilities can continue to be detained indefinitely.
Madeleine Carlisle and Jasmine Aguilera, Time, 6/13/22
- On June 25, 2022, the Biden administration halted its limits on immigration arrests to comply with a court ruling, leaving deportation agents without any official instructions on which immigrants they should, and should not, detain.
Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 6/25/22
- In June of 2022, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a budget that set aside \$12 million to create a program for transporting unauthorized migrants out of Florida. But just three months later, the money was being used in a place far from Florida: rounding up Venezuelan asylum seekers on the streets of San Antonio and shipping them on private planes to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. In the middle of it all, a woman [named Perla Huerta] with a background in military counterintelligence who investigators believe was sent to Texas from Tampa in order to fill the planes.
Edgar Sandoval, Miriam Jordan, Patricia Mazzei and J. David Goodman, New York Times, 10/4/22
- On July 7, 2022, Texas Governor, Greg Abbott authorized state law enforcement to return migrants suspected of entering the country illegally to southern ports of entry, though he stopped short of instructing officials to expel them from the country. *Jasper Scherer and Benjamin Wermund, Austin Bureau, 7/7/22*
- On August 12, 2022, Governor Doug Ducey issued an Executive Order directing the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs to immediately fill the gaps in the Yuma border wall with double-stacked shipping containers, reinforced with wire at the top. By August 24, Governor Ducey announced that 3,820 feet of previously open border near Yuma, Arizona is now closed.
Office of the Governor Doug Ducey, 8/12/22 and 8/24/22
- On August 8, 2022, the Biden Administration officially terminated the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) or "Remain in Mexico" program—which requires people with open asylum cases to wait in Mexico while their case is adjudicated in the U.S. Title 42 is still in place.
Jasmine Aguilera, Time, 8/29/22
- The administration is considering a humanitarian parole program for Venezuelans. If implemented, the program for Venezuelans would be similar to a humanitarian program offered to Ukrainians, which allows a family member or sponsor in the U.S. to apply on behalf of the refugee and commit to providing them with financial assistance while they're in the country. (This became reality.)
Eileen Sullivan and Zolan Kanno-Youngs, New York Times, 10/11/22
- President Biden invoked Title 42 to deny Venezuelans the chance to request asylum at the border.
Colleen Long and Zeke Miller, AP, 10/16/22
- Officials in El Paso, Texas, discontinued the practice of transporting migrants to New York City and Chicago by bus, citing a new Biden administration policy designed to deter migrants from crossing the border illegally.
Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 10/21/22
- On October 14, Judge Andrew Hanen, said he would, for now, allow nearly 600,000 immigrant "Dreamers" enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to continue renewing their two-year protections from deportation and work permits while the court case over the policy proceeds. At the same time, the judge said he would continue to prohibit the federal government from approving new DACA requests. The regulations are set to take effect on October 31. *Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 10/14/22*

- On November 14, Governor Greg Abbott invoked Article IV Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution, known as the "Invasion Clause", giving state law enforcement the power to arrest migrants and drop them at ports of entry.
Fox 4 Dallas, 11/15/22
- Texas Governor Greg Abbott raised \$401,000 from private donations to help fund his operation to bus migrants from the southern border to Democratic learning cities.
Shelly Hagan, Bloomberg, 11/15/22
- On November 16, US District Judge Emmet Sullivan ruled that Title 42 was unlawful. Sullivan's ruling striking down Title 42 will be on hold until December 21.
Catherine E. Shoichet, CNN, 11/16/22
- On November 18, 2022, Gov. Abbott's office said that buses have transported 8,400 migrants to D.C., over 3,800 to New York City and more than 1,200 migrants to Chicago. The Texas Department of Emergency Management reported the buses had cost Texas \$20.14 million in October. Texas is spending roughly \$1,700 per person to transport migrants to cities on the East Coast.
*Office of the Texas Governor, 11/18/22
Benjamin Wermund, Express-News, 9/8/22*
- On November 16, a bus carrying approximately 30 migrants who were sent from Texas to Philadelphia pulled up outside Philadelphia's 30th Street Station. A second bus carrying approximately 46 asylum seekers arrived in Philadelphia on November 21. A third bus arrived in Philadelphia around 6 a.m., with about 45 people on board, on November 25. A fourth bus pulled in two hours later with approximately 81 passengers.
*Michael Tanenbaum, PhillyVoice, 11/16/22 & 11/21/22
Franki Rudnesky, PhillyVoice, 11/25/22*
- Attorneys general from Arizona, Louisiana, Alabama, Alaska, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming submitted a motion to Judge Emmet Sullivan to keep Title 42 alive.
Stef W. Kight, Axios, 11/22/22
- Four months after the Supreme Court temporarily blocked President Biden's power to prioritize certain immigrants in the country illegally for deportation, the justices revisited the issue November 29. The administration is trying to prioritize undocumented immigrants who threaten national security or public safety. Texas and Louisiana contend the approach violates federal immigration law. The case is one of several challenging Biden's authority to make policy without explicit authorization from Congress.
*John Fritze, USATODAY, 11/28/22
Greg Stohr, Bloomberg, 11/29/22*

FY 2022 Migrant Apprehensions by Month at Southwest Border				
Month	Family Units	Single Adults	Unaccompanied Children	Total
October	41,556	104,932	12,625	159,113
November	43,279	109,991	13,745	167,015
December	49,437	109,461	11,704	170,602
January	30,419	108,851	8,607	147,877
February	25,165	122,226	11,779	159,170
March	34,052	163,237	13,892	211,181
April	37,082	154,565	11,857	203,504
May	51,166	158,784	14,420	224,370
June	44,071	133,399	14,929	192,399
July	42,851	125,980	13,003	181,834
August	39,305	131,476	10,993	181,774
September	44,579	151,479	11,539	207,597
Total	482,962	1,574,381	149,093	2,206,436

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, data current as of 10/24/22

Climate Change

COP27 yielded a historic climate fund. COP28 must do more, experts say

After two weeks of negotiations at COP27, wealthy nations agreed to create a fund to compensate vulnerable countries for the costs of dealing with rising seas, stronger storms and other disasters fueled by rising global temperatures.

However, the agreement made little progress on measures to accelerate emissions-cutting efforts or phase out the burning of fossil fuels. There is pressure now on COP28 to secure meaningful action to shift trajectory of global warming.

*Maxine Joselow and Vanessa Montalbano,
The Washington Post, 11/21/22*

Effects of Climate Change Across the World

- In 2022, every part of the continent of Africa experienced cyclones, floods, heatwaves, wildfires, droughts and famine.
- The National Climate Change project found that 3.3% of Greenland's ice sheet will melt—equal to 110 trillion tons of ice. This will cause a rise in global sea-level by a foot.
- Hurricane Ian, in Florida, claimed 85 lives and could cost up to \$47 billion in damages.
- Puerto Rico, hit with another hurricane this year, has struggled to rebuild housing and crucial infrastructure in the 5 years since it was hit by Maria and Irma in September 2017.
- Europe has been hit with heat waves due to their baseline temperature increasing 1.1°C (about 2°F). Southern Europe is drawing hot air from the Sahara and bringing it northward.
- South Asia, which depends on monsoons to provide water to the land and people, is seeing more erratic and more dangerous monsoons with more violent rainfall as well as extreme dry spells.
- Due to heavy monsoon rains, Pakistan experienced flash floods and standing water from June to September. With 2 million homes damaged and destroyed, 7.9 million people were displaced.

*Carbon Brief, 10/26/22,
The Washington Post, 8/29/22,
ABC News, 10/3/22,
New York Times, 10/3/22,
CNBC, 10/4/22,
The New York Times, 7/6/22, 10/4/22, 10/7/22,
Relief Web, 10/19/22*



Conference of the Parties summit (COP27)

Negotiations

- The Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan covers key items, including 1.5 degrees Celsius, fossil fuels, Just Transition, finance and nature-based solutions.
- The loss and damage fund will provide financial support to the most vulnerable countries who experience the effects of climate change caused by developed countries.
- Countries were charged with figuring out how to create processes to push each other to increase mitigation ambition and implementation, however no solutions were made in ways to catalyze emissions reduction.
- The United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) will host the COP28 conference from November 30 to December 12, 2023. Countries will conduct the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement.

For more information:

www.eesi.org/newsletters/view/cop27-dispatch-november-21-2022

COP27 Dispatch, 11/18/22 & 11/21/22

Whale Reunions, Green Hydrogen and Other Good News on the Climate

- The US passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which promises incentives for renewable energy, electric vehicles, carbon capture and storage, and aims to cut US greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 2005 levels by 2050.
- Seville, Spain is building subterranean canals powered by renewable energy to help cool part of the city above.
- Germany's 3-month experiment with super-cheap public transportation saved 1.8 million tons of CO2 emissions, equivalent to powering about 350,000 home for a year.
- California's air regulator approved plans to phase out sales of gasoline-powered vehicles by 2035.
- To protect moorlands, the British government will ban the sale of peat for use as fertilizer in private gardens and allotments by 2024.
- India will increase its green hydrogen production capacity to an annual 25 million tons by 2047 as it weans itself off fossil fuels.
- The Republic of Congo will establish its first 3 marine reserves in the Atlantic and will cover 12% of the West African country's ocean zone and protect breeding grounds used by whales and turtles.
- American households will install a record number of solar-power systems this year to help reduce electricity bills. Residential solar installations will increase by about 5.6 gigawatts in 2022.
- Sweden's Braathens Regional Airlines said it operated the first flight of a commercial aircraft powered entirely by sustainable fuel in June 2022.
- Brought to near extinction by industrial whaling, the fin whales of the Southern Hemisphere have returned to their ancestral feedings grounds in the Antarctic in high densities.

Leslie Kaufman, Bloomberg, 10/17/22

Life is a journey with problems to solve and lessons to learn but most of all ... experiences to enjoy.

Tulshi Bhanushali



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—Monthly ZOOM meetings for the Benedictine CRI will continue.

ICCR Spring 2023 Conference—Tuesday, Mar. 14, 2023 to Friday, Mar. 17, 2023.

ICCR Fall 2023 Conference—First Week of October

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)
- **St. John's Abbey** (Collegeville, Minnesota)
- **Benet Hill Monastery** (Colorado Springs, Colorado)
- **St. Walburg Monastery** (Covington, Kentucky)
- **Monastic Congregation of St. Scholastica** (Cullman, Alabama)
- **Sacred Heart Monastery** (Cullman, Alabama)
- **St. Walburga Monastery** (Elizabeth, New Jersey)
- **Emmaus Ministries** (Erie, Pennsylvania)
- **Mount St. Benedict** (Erie, Pennsylvania)

- **St. Scholastica Monastery** (Fort Smith, Arkansas)
 - **Sacred Heart Monastery** (Lisle, Illinois)
 - **Emmanuel Monastery** (Lutherville, Maryland)
 - **Holy Wisdom Monastery** (Middleton, Wisconsin)
 - **St. Gertrude Monastery** (Newark, Delaware)
 - **Immaculata Monastery** (Norfolk, Nebraska)
 - **Mount Saviour Monastery** (Pine City, New York)
 - **St. Mary Monastery** (Rock Island, Illinois)
 - **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)
- Our Partner Community:**
- **Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth** (Leavenworth, Kansas)

Our Donor Friends:

- **DBA Our Lady of Grace Monastery** (Beech Grove, IN)
- **Monastery Our Lady of the Desert** (Blanco, NM)
- **Sisters of St. Benedict** (Ferdinand, IN)
- **Glastonbury Abbey (grant)** (Hingham, Massachusetts)
- **St. Mary's Abbey** (Morristown, NJ)
- **St. Paul's Monastery** (St. Paul, Minnesota)
- **Weston Priory** (Weston, VT)
- **Gerry Allen**
- **Eugenia Schuler**



The Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

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

Members of the Benedictine CRI work to influence corporate practices on issues relating to basic human rights. For further information about the coalition's work and to make donations, please complete the following and mail it to the coalition at the address above. The Coalition staff includes: Sr. Susan Mika OSB, Nina Martinez, and Ruben Lopez.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
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PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____
MONASTERY (or other affiliation) _____