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Investments That Do Justice:

An e-newsletter of the Jesuit Committee on Investment Responsibility

December 2015

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OUR MISSION:

The Jesuit Committee on Investment Responsibility (JCIR) advocates for corporate behavior consistent with Catholic social teaching, through dialogues with corporations, shareholder resolutions and proxy voting.

What's In a Name?

By Nick Napolitano, MAR and UNE Province JCIR representative
For readers paying extra close attention, you might notice that the Jesuit Committee on Investment Responsibility (JCIR) has dropped the National. For years, the Jesuit Province of English Canada has actively participated in our shareholder advocacy work. But it wasn't until Canada and the U.S. Provinces formed the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the U.S. that we realized this discrepancy. Hence our new acronym of JCIR.

It's been over a year since we've released an e-newsletter, but you'll find some of the highlights of our work below. Keep an eye out for our forthcoming 2015 Annual Report which will be posted on the Jesuit Conference [website](#) and available in print through your Province JCIR representative.

Faith Consistent Investing in a Climate Challenged World

By John Sealey, CDT and WIS JCIR representative
Faith Consistent Investing in a Climate Challenged World was the title of a conference held at Xavier University (Cincinnati) and co-sponsored by Xavier University, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility and the local Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment with a generous grant from the Sisters of Charity Ministries Foundation. Nearly 100 people from the Cincinnati region attended the two-day event including representatives from the business, academic, investor and media communities. Panelists included representatives from Procter & Gamble, Macy's and Fifth Third Bank that are headquartered in Cincinnati, as well as representatives of anchor institutions such as Xavier University, Mercy Health, Green Umbrella and the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System.



Student panelists from Xavier University's Department of Sustainability.

While ICCR has held similar events at higher education institutions in the NY Metro, this event was among the first to take ICCR "on the road" for an extended workshop with local stakeholders. Of particular interest was a luncheon conversation with student leaders from the

Xavier community regarding corporate social responsibility. To read more about the gathering, [click here](#) or watch a [video](#) of the panel which opened the conference.

ICCR Files Moral Climate Change Resolution with ExxonMobil

Led by the Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment, ICCR members are filing a shareholder [resolution](#) with Exxon that presents the moral case for action on climate change. The resolution asks the company to make a statement acknowledging the imperative to limit warming to 2 degrees Celsius from pre-Industrial levels. While Exxon released a [statement](#) on the December UN climate talks in Paris, shareholders would have liked the statement to acknowledge the moral imperative for action on climate change or the importance of limiting warming to 2 degrees. Shareholders' continued advocacy with the company on climate change remains very important.

If your institution holds direct shares of Exxon (not through a managed mutual fund) and you are interested in getting involved in this dialogue, or filing the shareholder proposal before December 16th, please contact your province JCIR representative.

A Jesuit Reflects on Shareholder Advocacy

By Simon Lochbrunner, SJ, German Jesuit in Formation and participant in the JCIR Ingression dialogue

Simon Lochbrunner, SJ is the son of organic farmers in Bavaria, Germany. But his studies in pastoral ministry at Loyola University Chicago brought him into contact with JCIR members engaged in dialogue with Ingression, a multi-national agricultural company that produces food and beverage ingredients primarily from corn and tapioca. Simon offers poignant reflections on risks and opportunities of trying to change corporate behavior through shareholder dialogue. [Click here](#) to read Simon's reflection.



Faith-based investors, led by Sr. Pat Daly, OP, have engaged in dialogue with ExxonMobil for over 25 years regarding concerns of climate change.



Migrants gather in prayer before a meal at the Kino Border Initiative's comedor.

Pope Francis and America's Deportation Problem

In a [September story](#) published on Politico, Fr. Sean Carroll, SJ, executive director of the [Kino Border Initiative](#), reflected on what Pope Francis might say in his address to Congress in light of America's inhumane treatment, detention and deportation of migrants arriving at the U.S./Mexico border. Concerns regarding the human rights protections for detained migrants in detention centers are at the heart of JCIR's dialogue with GEO Group.

ISN Ignatian Family Teach-in Offers Attendees a Glimpse into Shareholder Advocacy

By Keith Vernon, JCIR Consultant

At the 2015 [Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice](#), the largest annual Catholic social justice gathering in the U.S. with more than 1,700 participants this year, the Jesuit Committee on Investment Responsibility (JCIR) engaged over 40 attendees through an interactive break-out session designed to teach the fundamentals of corporate shareholder advocacy.

Participants, from Jesuit high schools and universities across the U.S., learned about the four companies that JCIR is engaged with to address human rights and environmental justice concerns. After a brief introduction and overview of the mechanics of socially responsible investing and shareholder advocacy, JCIR consultant Keith Vernon divided the room into two groups to experience a mock stakeholder dialogue. The role-play focused on the issue of the human right to water where the operations of a company was compromising the safety of a primary water source. One team represented members of the company in question and the other a group of faith-based investors concerned about the impact of the business on water quality.



While each team took opposing advocacy views on the issue at hand, Pope Francis's call on the need to "dialogue with one another" was at the heart of their interactions. Faith-based investors maintained a respectful tone and demeanor and listened to each other's viewpoint to develop solutions that could work for both parties, major principles for a successful dialogue.

"The ability of the teams to grasp and advocate with ideas and solutions really left me with confidence that this group of Jesuit-educated individuals are well on their way to becoming skilled advocates," noted JCIR consultant Keith Vernon, Esq. "Perhaps some of the people in this room will one day become leaders in the area of corporate social responsibility and stakeholder engagement."

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