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Socially Responsible Investment Coalition

SRIC ANNUAL EVENT

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Whitley Theological Center, San Antonio, Texas

**Sow, Grow, Thrive: Empowering Communities
through Sustainable Food Production and Providing
Access to Healthy Food**



Proudly presenting our

Citizen Advocate Excellence Award to Rev. Séamus Finn, OMI
Honoring Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, Rev. Rufus Whitley and
Rev. Warren A. Brown, representing the
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Special Thanks

Wingsheung Esther Ng

SRIC's Board Treasurer and Individual Member for donating the award

Panel Moderator

Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, CCVI

Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San Antonio, Texas

Guest Speakers

Deacon Eugene (Gene) Festa

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Global Fellows Program Speaker

Mitch Hagney

CEO of LocalSprout, president of the Food Policy Council of San Antonio
and Director of Food Sustainability at the San Antonio Food Bank

Dr. Ricardo González

Director, Ettlting Center for Civic Leadership & Sustainability at the
University of the Incarnate Word (UIW)

Buffet Catered by

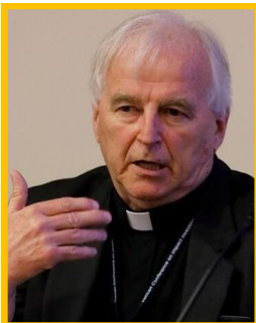
Absolutely Delicious Catering

SRIC's Citizen Advocate Excellence Award

We are delighted to announce that this year we have selected Reverend Séamus Finn, OMI, as the next recipient of SRIC's Citizen Advocate Excellence Award. His unwavering dedication as a devoted priest of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and a global leader in faith-based and socially responsible investing has continually inspired us. Serving as the director of both the Oblate International Pastoral Investment Trust and the Oblates' United States Province Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, Rev. Finn's commitment to social justice, environmental sustainability, and ethical investments has been consistently remarkable.

During this event, we will also recognize Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of San Angelo, Rev. Warren A. Brown, OMI, and Rev. Rufus Whitley, OMI, representing the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, whose founding contributions to SRIC have been invaluable. Their ongoing contributions to SRIC over the years have greatly enriched our organization.

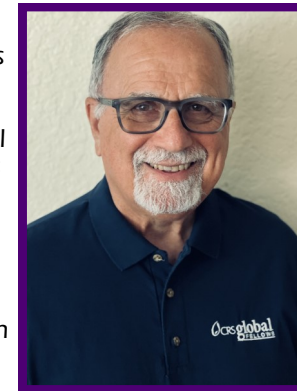
Fr. Séamus Finn, OMI, is a global leader in faith-based and socially responsible investing and a priest of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, a missionary religious congregation. He is the director of the Oblates' United States Province Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, coordinating their advocacy work on behalf of marginalized peoples and communities living in poverty. He served as chair of the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility's board of directors for five years and is the director of Faith Consistent Investing for the Oblate International Pastoral Investment Trust. The latter includes an active shareholder investment program both for the U.S. province and for the congregation, as well as a presence at international institutions like the World Bank, IMF and the UN. He serves on the boards of several organizations focused on justice priorities in the public policy arena. Finn has been interviewed for print and radio shows and has appeared on dozens of TV shows, including CNN, CNBC, CBS, PBS, Al Jazeera America, RTE, and The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.



Program Description

This year's program dives into the critical issues of understanding and addressing the intersections of structural racism, nutrition insecurity, and health disparities to pave the way towards a more just food system. Through insightful discussions, our guest speakers will explore the intersections of these challenges and offer perspectives on how sustainable food production, community empowerment, and increased access to healthy food can be catalysts for positive change. Together, we will learn about different strategies aimed at addressing systemic barriers, fostering inclusivity, and promoting food access in our communities.

Gene Festa was ordained a deacon in 1981 and has served in several parishes in Houston and San Antonio. He has always been very active, both at his parishes and in his community as a volunteer in several capacities. A retired teacher, he has often presented workshops and facilitated retreats, as well as preached and completed speaking engagements for Catholic Relief Services. For the past 8 years he has been a Global Fellow with CRS, and has been involved in telling their story wherever and whenever he can. Catholic Social Justice is, for him, a most important part of our call as Catholic Christians to be evangelizers and make the Kingdom of God a reality for all with whom we come in contact.



Mitch Hagney is the Director of Food Sustainability at the San Antonio Food Bank. He has farmed in South Texas, Costa Rica, Massachusetts, Arizona, and Kentucky. He runs the San Antonio Food Bank's 75 acre farm, organizes their Farmers Market Nutrition Program, and helps to implement the Rio Grande Colonias Better Business Grants program. He also owns a hydroponic farm and food hub in downtown San Antonio called LocalSprout, and served as President of the Food Policy Council of San Antonio for 7 years. As president of the FPCSA, he helped create the city's Healthy Corner Store Initiative and change urban farming and backyard chicken municipal regulations.



Ricardo González has been the Director of the Ettlign Center for Civic Leadership & Sustainability at the University of the Incarnate Word since 2017. He has significantly contributed to developing student leaders dedicated to promoting social justice in collaboration with local and global communities. Dr. González has an impressive track record of obtaining over \$15 million dollars in grant funding to support the mission and goals of the organizations and institutions he has led throughout his career. At the University of the Incarnate Word, he has secured over \$600,000 in the past three years. With over 25 years of experience in education, Dr. González has supported and assisted students and families in achieving their goals and dreams of obtaining a degree from an institution of higher learning.

