



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Sisters of ICCR: Genuine Faith in Action

Pioneer shareholder coalition recognizes the invaluable contributions of Catholic women religious to the corporate responsibility movement.

New York, NY – Friday, May 4th, 2012 – The [Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility](#) (ICCR), a shareholder coalition celebrating over 40 years of social justice advocacy, today releases a statement to acknowledge the role of Catholic women religious in transforming corporate policies and practices to create a more just and sustainable world.

Said Laura Berry, Executive Director of ICCR, ***“The sisters have been an integral part of the mission and spirit of ICCR. For nearly four decades their energy and vision has been an essential part of all that our organization has contributed to corporate responsibility and we are profoundly grateful for their service. Through their shareholder advocacy on behalf of the world’s most vulnerable, they have earned a place of respect in the boardrooms of some of the world’s most powerful and influential corporations. Through their efforts to redress business tolls on human rights, environmental health, food and water safety and economic justice, they have been a cornerstone of our organization’s work and are an enduring voice for justice in our world.”***

The ICCR coalition comprises over 300 member organizations including hundreds of women religious from Catholic communities. Through the investment of pension and mission funds on behalf of their respective denominations, the sisters work in coalition with other members to promote the highest standards of corporate ethics and social responsibility as the best means to achieve sustainable profitability.

“There isn’t a single justice issue, be it social, environmental or economic, or a single sector in the business world, that hasn’t been positively influenced by the determined work of the ICCR sisters,” said Rev. David Schilling, Program Director for Human Rights and Resources. ***“Since the early days when our coalition first formed during the campaign to end apartheid over 40 years ago, they have been on the forefront of this movement, exhorting companies to consider the impacts - on the planet and its people - of their operations. I can think of no better example of discipleship, of extending God’s grace or of the embodiment of faith in action than these women.”***

Said Kathryn McCloskey, Vice Chair of ICCR, ***“The sisters of ICCR have had a tremendous impact on our organization’s ability to be prescient, often seeing the risks and hearing of the injustices way before they hit the headlines. They have taught us all so much, and it has been an eye-opening and humbling experience to work alongside these women who continue to do so much for the world without want for fame or glory.”***

“The sisters of ICCR are the true pioneers of community investing, having long ago understood the importance of aligning money with mission,” said Jeffrey Dekro of Bending the Arc: A Jewish

Partnership for Justice, and the Isaiah Funds. *“Their financial response to communities all over the world in times of crisis, and ongoing commitment to provide economic opportunities to the disadvantaged are expressions faith values we all share, and we are privileged to count them as colleagues in this important work.”*

Said Rev. Margaret Cowden, of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, *“I have a deep and abiding respect and gratitude for the ministry of Catholic women religious and particularly for the nuns I have had the privilege of working with through ICCR. I simply can’t imagine a world without their tireless work on behalf of justice for all God’s people and for all of creation. Their accomplishments in ministries of peace and justice should be a source of great pride, not only for Catholics, but for all people of faith. I pray that God will continue to empower and sustain them as they live out their calling.”*

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About the [Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility \(ICCR\)](#):

Currently celebrating its 41st year, ICCR is the pioneer coalition of active shareholders who view the management of their investments as a catalyst for change. Its 300 member organizations with over \$100 billion in AUM have an enduring record of corporate engagement that has demonstrated influence on policies promoting justice and sustainability in the world.

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