Cardinal McCarrick and Father Bud Scheets Receive CARA Awards

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Ph.D., D.D. and Rev. Francis Kelly “Bud” Scheets, o.s.c. were honored at CARA’s awards dinner Wednesday for their contributions to Church research.

Cardinal McCarrick was awarded the Cardinal Cushing Medal for the Advancement of Church Research. This medal is named in honor of Richard Cardinal Cushing, one of the principal founders of CARA, and is awarded annually to a person or an organization that has advanced Church research through their active support of research and their understanding of its uses.

Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, spent much of his life on the East Coast in New York, New Jersey, and in the Archdiocese of Washington. His ministry has spanned many areas including Catholic education, Latin America, migration issues, and social services and charity.

He was born in New York City on July 7, 1930. He entered St. Joseph’s Seminary, Yonkers, NY, where he earned a BA in 1954 and a Master’s Degree in History in 1958. Francis Cardinal Spellman ordained him to the priesthood on May 31, 1958 in New York City. He went on to earn a second master’s degree in Social Sciences and a Ph.D. in Sociology from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Father McCarrick’s first assignment was as assistant chaplain of Catholic University where he would later serve as dean of students and as director of development. Cardinal McCarrick had been slated to be the first executive director of CARA back in 1964.

He was named president of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico in Ponce in 1965, where he was responsible for the intense development of the school as a major institution. In 1969, Terence Cardinal Cooke recalled Msgr. McCarrick to New York to serve as associate secretary for education and then as the Cardinal’s Secretary from 1971-1977. In 1977, Pope Paul VI named Msgr. McCarrick Auxiliary Bishop of New York.

In 1981, Pope John Paul II appointed him to be the first Bishop of Metuchen, a newly-established diocese in New Jersey. From 1986 until his appointment to the Archdiocese of Washington, he served as the fourth Archbishop of Newark.

On January 2, 2001, he was installed as Archbishop of Washington, a position he held until May 16, 2006. Just seven weeks after his installation, on February 21, 2001, he was elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope John Paul II. As Archbishop of Washington, Cardinal McCarrick served as chancellor of The Catholic University of America and president of the Board of Trustees of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and placed an
emphasis on education, vocations and meeting the needs of new immigrants, particularly in the Latino community.

Education has always been a priority for Cardinal McCarrick. In 2004, he supported the creation of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship program, a Federal program that gives low-income families the ability to choose a public or non-public school for their children. The Cardinal also initiated plans to open a new high school, the first Archdiocesan high school to open in decades, in Fall 2007.


Father Scheets, who passed away in August, was posthumously awarded the Rev. Louis J. Luzbetak, SVD, Award for Exemplary Church Research. This award, named for CARA’s first executive director, is given to a researcher who has distinguished himself or herself in the conduct of Church research.

Father Scheets often worked as an independent researcher and consultant on questions of finances, planning, and management in parishes and other Church institutions. He was born in Aurora, Illinois in 1926. Following his profession of first vows as a Crosier religious on August 28, 1946, Fr. Bud was ordained to the priesthood on June 1, 1951. Shortly after ordination Bud began ministry as a high school teacher in Onamia, MN, and later in Wawasee, IN., and White Plains, NY. While teaching and doing pastoral work, Fr. Bud received a master’s degree in American History from Fordham University in 1959 and a Ph.D. in Economics and Finance from Ball State University in 1971.

Between 1973 and 1984 at CARA, Father Scheets conducted a more than two dozen studies for dioceses, seminaries, and religious orders. He also created a survey workbook for diocesan fiscal management and a parish council finance committee idea book. At CARA he was Director of Church Management Programs.

Father Scheets was given the Knights of Columbus Thomas Brandon Award in 1968 for contributions to the Catholic Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He received the Crosier Recognition Award in 1986 for creating an accounting and management system for all Crosier schools and locations.

His articles have appeared in Social Order, America, Priest, CHURCH, Today’s Parish Minister, Seminary Journal, and National Catholic Reporter. He is a contributing author of The Parish Management Handbook and Patterns of Parish Leadership: Cost and Effectiveness in Four Denominations.
Fr. Scheets remained active serving the Church and the Crosiers in his senior years. Before his death, he regularly assisted a Hispanic parish in Phoenix on weekends and continued to research and write.

Previous recipients of the Luzbetak Award include Dr. Ruth Narita Doyle, Rev. John A. Coleman, SJ, Rev. Raymond H. Potvin, Sr. Marie Augusta Neal, SNDdeN, Dr. Dean R. Hoge, Dr. Ruth A. Wallace, Sr. Katarina Schuth, OSF, the Glenmary Research Center, Dr. James D. Davidson, Dr. Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo, and Dr. William V. D’Antonio, and Sister Miriam D. Ukeritis, CSJ.

About the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
CARA is a national, non-profit research center that conducts social scientific studies about the Catholic Church. Founded in 1964 and affiliated with Georgetown University since 1989, CARA has three major dimensions to its mission: to increase the Church's self-understanding, to serve the applied research needs of Church decision-makers and to advance scholarly research on religion, particularly Catholicism.