



CARA 2009 Awardees Dr. William V. D'Antonio (left) & Brother Bernard Stratman, SM (right).

## **CARA Honors Noted Catholic Church Researchers**

Washington, D.C. – The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University presented two awards to noted leaders of Catholic research on Tuesday, October 27. The awards were presented to Brother Bernard F. Stratman, SM and Dr. William V. D'Antonio at CARA's annual Mass, dinner, and awards ceremony at Georgetown University.

Brother Stratman received the Cardinal Cushing Medal for the Advancement of Church Research. The medal is named in honor of Cardinal Richard 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.

Brother Stratman is the former Executive Director of the Seminary Department of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). In this position, he was responsible for providing leadership development to seminary staff members and convening, supporting and networking around current issues related to the formation of priests. In each of the many research and other projects in which he has been involved, Brother Bernie is well-known for bringing together representatives of many groups and perspectives and for facilitating collaboration among them. He was the publisher of

*Seminary Journal*, NCEA's resource for seminary rectors and those involved in priestly formation as well as ongoing formation of priests.

Prior to joining the NCEA in 2002, he served first in a programming and communications capacity and then as Executive Director of the National Federation of Priests' Councils (1989-2002). At both NFPC and NCEA, Brother Bernie was instrumental in securing funding and commissioning numerous research projects and symposia on priestly life and ministry as well as on seminaries and priestly formation, including studies by Dean Hoge and CARA. Over the last several years, Brother Stratman has commissioned several research projects. In 2006, a study on recently ordained priests was published as *Experiences of Priests Ordained Five to Nine Years* (by Dean Hoge, National Catholic Educational Association 2006).

Brother Bernard earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1970 from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas. He received a master of arts in instructional technologies from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, in 1977. He is a member of the U.S. Province of the Society of Mary (Marianists).

Dr. D'Antonio was awarded the Rev. Louis J. Luzbetak, SVD, Award for Exemplary Church Research. He is a fellow at the Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies (formerly the Life Cycle Institute) at The Catholic University of America.

Dr. D'Antonio's scholarly contributions to the social scientific study of religion reflect his interest in the relationship between authority and individual freedom. He also has written extensively on the link between religion and family life as well as on the connection between religion and ethnicity (especially his Italian heritage). He is the co-editor of four books and the co-author of ten books, including *Religion, Revolution, and Reform* (with Frederick Pike, Praeger 1964), *Families and Religions* (with Joan Aldous, Sage 1983); and *Voices of the Faithful: Loyal Catholics Striving for Change* (with Rev. Anthony Pogorelc, SS, Herder and Herder 2007). He is also lead author of the four book series on American Catholic laity, most recently, *American Catholics Today: New Realities of Their Faith and Their Church* (with James D. Davidson, Dean Hoge, and Mary Gautier, Rowman & Littlefield 2007).

Dr. D'Antonio also has published articles on these and other subjects in all major journals in the social scientific study of religion as well as in other publications. He has been a leader in the study of community power (e.g., *Power and Democracy in America*, with Howard Ehrlich, University of Notre Dame 1961) and is was co-author of a leading textbook, *Sociology* (with Melvin DeFleur and Lois DeFleur, Scott Foresman 1972) and a book on gender and sexuality, *Female and Male* (with Elaine C. Pierson, Lippincott 1974). In his remarks at CARA, Dr. D'Antonio highlighted his co-authored study in 2000, *The Catholic Experience of Small Christian Communities* (with Bernard J. Lee, Virgilio P. Elizondo, Patricia O'Connell Killen, Jeanette Rodriguez, Evelyn Eaton Whitehead, and James D. Whitehead, Paulist Press).

“This is one of the most important studies of one of the most important movements now

going on in the Church,” said Dr. D’Antonio. “The Church is alive in these communities.”

Prior to his position at CUA, Dr. D’Antonio served as executive officer of the American Sociological Association from 1982-1991. He also served as President of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion from 1978-1979, the Association for the Sociology of Religion for 1993, and the International Institute of Sociology from 1992-1993. He has been a leader in several other professional associations and is the recipient of a number of honors and awards.

A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, D’Antonio received his undergraduate degree from Yale University in 1948, M.A. from the University of Wisconsin in 1953, and Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1958. He taught sociology at the University of Notre Dame from 1959-1971 and at the University of Connecticut from 1971-1982, serving terms as department chair at both institutions. He was appointed Adjunct Research Professor at CUA in 1991.

“It is a pleasure to recognize Brother Stratman and Dr. D’Antonio for their important contributions to research about the Catholic Church,” said Sr. Mary Bendyna, RSM, executive director and senior research associate at CARA.

### **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. For more information about CARA, visit <http://cara.georgetown.edu>.