

THE CENTER FOR APPLIED RESEARCH IN THE APOSTOLATE

CARA is a national, non-profit, university-affiliated organization that conducts social scientific studies for and about the Catholic Church. Founded in 1964, CARA has been affiliated with Georgetown University since 1989. All CARA researchers have doctoral degrees in relevant academic disciplines.

CARA offers a range of research and consulting services for parishes, dioceses, religious communities and institutes, and other Catholic institutions and organizations.



CARA tailors its research to specific client needs. In addition to the presbyteral research described in this brochure, some other research services CARA offers to dioceses include:

PASS (Pastoral Assistance Surveys and Services), an in-pew survey designed to assist parish leaders in understanding the needs of their parish community.

CARA also produces **Diocesan Demographic** reports for dioceses in the United States. Drawing on Catholic data, diocesan priest data, and U.S. Census data, these reports address different issues that dioceses face today in pastoral planning. Reports present up-to-date estimates and five- to 20-year projections at both the county and the diocesan level with easy-to-read maps, tables, and graphs.



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Georgetown University
2300 Wisconsin Ave, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20007
Phone: 202-687-8080
Fax: 202-687-8083
E-mail: cara@georgetown.edu

<http://cara.georgetown.edu>

CARA's mission is to discover, promote, and apply modern techniques and scientific informational resources for practical use in a coordinated and effective approach to the Church's social and religious mission in the modern world, at home and overseas.

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CARA PRESBYTERAL RESEARCH



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

SERVING THE CHURCH'S RESEARCH NEEDS SINCE 1964

PRESBYTERAL RESEARCH

PRIEST PROJECTIONS

CARA's **Priest Projections** have been used in more than 60 dioceses over the past 15 years. Known for precise methodology with proven accuracy over time, the priest projections are an invaluable tool for clergy planning.



The projection uses data from a single CARA questionnaire that collects information on the current age of diocesan priests, priest retirement age, recent ordinations, and seminarians currently in formation.

The resulting report has an executive summary, followed by tables and charts with low, medium, and high projections of the number of priests who will be available to serve in a diocese through 2030.

The three factors most likely to affect the number of diocesan priests available for active ministry are the number ordained/incardinated each year, the retirement age, and whether some priests continue to serve after retirement. The Priest Projection presents 18 likely projections created by different combinations of these three factors. This allows the diocese full flexibility in using projections as these details evolve over time. The cost for a Priest Projection is \$2,250.

PRESBYTERAL SURVEYS

CARA's **Presbyteral Surveys** utilize mailed questionnaires designed to assist dioceses with pastoral planning and understanding the needs of their priests. These surveys are typically offered to all diocesan priests, including those who are retired, and with religious priests active in parish ministry. CARA adapts the questions to meet the needs of the diocese.

Most dioceses that have used this service in the past have been particularly interested in understanding presbyteral attitudes about parish ministry in a time of fewer priests. Many are also interested in priests' morale, satisfaction with ministry, concerns about retirement issues, and interest in ongoing formation. CARA's prices for Presbyteral Surveys range from \$9,000 to \$12,000.



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CULTIVATING UNITY

Dioceses considering a presbyteral survey may also be interested in a larger program, called **Cultivating Unity**. CARA is collaborating with the National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy (NOCERCC) on this initiative for dioceses entitled "Cultivating Unity: The Presbyterate and the Bishop." The purpose of the program is to strengthen solidarity among priests and between priests and their bishop. The centerpiece of Cultivating Unity is a convocation where presbyteral unity is addressed through presentations, group discussion, prayer, and reflection. CARA is responsible for the research component of Cultivating Unity. Participating dioceses have the option of conducting written questionnaires and listening sessions in advance of the convocation. These provide an initial understanding of priests' views of unity in their local presbyterate.

Information on Cultivating Unity is also available from Jim Alphen of NOCERCC (312-226-1890 / jalphen@nocercc.org).



For more information about CARA Priest Projection Reports, Presbyteral Surveys, or other research services for dioceses contact Mary Bendyna, RSM, Ph.D., CARA Executive Director (202-687-8080/bendynam@georgetown.edu).