A Message from the Executive Director

We had a wonderful 50th Anniversary celebration on October 27, 2014, at Georgetown’s Visitation Preparatory School. We were honored to have Cardinal Sean Patrick O’Malley, O.F.M. Cap. preside and preach at our Anniversary Mass. His homily on the importance of quiet and prayer was most fitting. Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, the Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See to the United States, also offered encouraging remarks on the value of research in the Church today.

We spent the past year reflecting on areas in which we want to grow but need additional funding to achieve. We discerned three areas that would help us better fulfill our mission to serve the research needs of the Church.

**CARA INITIATED RESEARCH**
Each year CARA researchers uncover relevant and useful findings that extend beyond the originally commissioned research. Our two CARA Special Reports—one on the impact of a year of volunteer service on vocations and the other on population trends among religious institutes of women—are good examples of CARA’s further pursuit of engaging questions and data. Seldom does CARA have the resources to pursue this additional research. Funding to explore these data more fully allows our researchers to investigate a wider variety of pressing issues relevant to the Church.

**CARA STUDENT INTERNS**
CARA offers an exceptional opportunity for graduate level internships for young men and women interested in the Church and social science research. These students are able to work closely with senior researchers, often accelerating their academic careers in service to the Church. By establishing a source of funding for internships, CARA will be able to offer this great opportunity more regularly.

**CARA COMMUNICATIONS**
CARA is expanding our communications infrastructure. We have digitized nearly 2,000 CARA research reports and created an online catalogue so that this rich resource is available broadly. The CARA Report, our quarterly summary of current research, the CARA blog, the Catholic Ministry Formation Directory, and our website are all being renewed and new efforts are underway to better communicate relevant research findings.

The support of so many friends over the past 50 years gave us a solid foundation and strong impetus to help us fulfill our mission. We look forward to the next 50 years of service to the Church. Thank you.

In Christ,
Father Thomas Gaunt, S.J.
CARA 2014 Projects Highlights

National Projects
CARA was commissioned by the Catholic Health Association to study executive leadership development in Catholic health systems. The study revealed that respondents who participated in the leadership formation program of their health system were more familiar with the major tenets of Catholic health care.

Parishes
Among CARA research and demographic services for several U.S. dioceses was research on the Archdiocese and its 15 districts. Another CARA research project focused on the graphic profile of the Archdiocese.

Religious Life
The National Religious Vocation Conference annual meeting and at the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions annual meeting. CARA also presented research findings at the National Campus Ministry Conference for the National Catholic Education Association.

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