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CARA OFFERS A UNIQUE SERVICE TO CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. RICHARD D. MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 17, 1970

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, in recent years research and planning have come of age in all our institutions and organizations. Research, we are gradually learning, is no panacea for the ills that beset our institutions and society. It is nonetheless an essential component of sound decisionmaking in the contemporary world.

As with other critical major sectors of society—business, labor, government, academia—our churches are also utilizing research and planning to improve their responses to the needs of their members and of the American community.

Exemplifying the growth of this trend within religious bodies is CARA—the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate—an independent but church-related national Catholic cooperative research center. Established in 1965 as a nonprofit body by more than 200 religious superiors and provincials, Catholic bishops and lay leaders, the center has already made major contributions both to the church and to our national well-being.

With its strong interfaith and ecumenical emphasis, CARA's concerns are as broad as those of the church, and it develops activities for both home and overseas. The center has a research council composed of distinguished Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish scholars and social scientists, and its rural, urban, and campus research programs are widely recognized for their usefulness to both public and private sectors alike.

Much of the center's steady growth is due to its outstanding board of directors, which has been composed of a cross-section of American leaders. Among these members have been:

Richard Cardinal Cushing, the recently retired Archbishop of Boston, honorary president, whose vision in 1961 triggered the establishment of CARA;

John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, former president of CARA during the center's period of most rapid growth; Cardinal Krol is the secretary of the National Council of Catholic Bishops;

Mr. Philip D. Lewis, K.S.G., vice president of CARA; a former member of the board of directors of the Catholic University of America, Mr. Lewis is a well known Florida businessman and civic leader;

Miss Genevieve Blatt, CARA secretary-treasurer; in 1964 Miss Blatt was the Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania; a former Assistant Director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, she was also elected for four terms as Pennsylvania's Secretary of Internal Affairs;

Mr. Charles M. Grace, chairman, CARA Finance Committee; in 1969 Mr. Grace was named a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre for his many religious activities, and his national leadership in the environmental field is well known;

The Most Reverend Leo C. Byrne, Coadjutor Archbishop of St. Paul-Minneapolis, who has provided essential leadership for CARA's Campus Ministries

Department;

Mr. John G. Foerst, president of Community Counselling Service, Inc., of New York; in 1966 Mr. Foerst conducted the first study of CARA's financial potential and is greatly responsible for CARA's financial successes;

Dr. T. Franklin Grady, dean of Jamestown College, Jamestown, N. Dak.; Dr. Grady is the representative in CARA of the Knights of Columbus, which has provided a \$250,000 5-year grant to the center for campus related research;

Mrs. Eugene J. McCarthy, M.A., Litt. D., Washington, D.C., author and lecturer; Mrs. McCarthy who is also a Board member of Church Women United, has provided leadership for the center's ecumenical emphasis;

The Reverend Frederick A. McGuire, C.M., assistant director of the Latin America Bureau, U.S. Catholic Conference; a former executive secretary of the Mission Secretariat, Father McGuire was one of the founders of CARA;

Mr. John McShain, Philadelphia businessman and philanthropist; Mr. McShain's long and distinguished business career has made him aware of the need to improve church management;

Mr. John O'Neill, finance chairman of General Tire and Rubber Co.;

The Most Reverend Ernest L. Unterkoefer, Bishop of Charleston, S.C.; theologian, ecumenist, and a very active member of CARA's Finance Committee;

The Most Reverend Coleman J. Carroll, Archbishop of Miami, whose much-cited work with Cuban refugees has helped direct CARA's focus toward the needs of Spanish-speaking Americans;

Mrs. Richard H. Walsh, supreme regent, Daughters of Isabella; Mrs. Walsh led the Daughters to help support CARA's Africa Department, starting in 1968;

Mr. Harry John, President of De Rance, Milwaukee, Wis.; Mr. John is deeply concerned with the church's overseas program;

Mr. Paul Noelke, president of Serra International; a body of distinguished Catholic laymen who promote church vocations, Serra has long worked hand-in-hand with CARA.

At the present time CARA's president is John J. Cardinal Carberry, Archbishop of St. Louis. He has encouraged the center to develop its research and planning activities so that the authentic voice of the laity and non-Catholics can be incorporated into the church's decision-making machinery. Illustrative of this unique CARA approach to planning is its program with the Archdiocese of Washington which is described in the news story below.

Much credit for CARA's success is due to the combined efforts of the deceased vice president of its Board of Directors, the Reverend James Darby, S.M., former president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, its executive director, the Reverend Louis J. Luzbetak, S.V.D., and development director, Francis X. Gannon, Ph.D.

Father Luzbetak is a member of the Anthropos Institute, Germany, founded by the world-renowned Father Wilhelm Schmidt, S.V.D., under whom he studied in Fribourg, Switzerland, and received his doctorate. He is a fellow of the American Anthropological Association and was president of the Catholic Anthropological Association—1962-68—and a Ford Foundation overseas fellow in

New Guinea.

Mr. Gannon's many-sided career has been particularly helpful to the center's public relations and financial development activities. A former research director, Eastern Conference of Teamsters, he also spent 3 years in Central America helping the State Department set up the U.S. program for the Regional Economic Integration Movement, assisted in establishing the framework for HEW's civil rights and antipollution programs, and has been a key coordinator for several national and State political campaigns.

At present CARA has a full-time staff of 30. It has been supported by professional talent contributed from approximately 25 religious communities and orders of men and women and is currently at work in six dioceses across the Nation. In addition, the center has a wide range of activities underway or in the planning stage for its various clients and constituencies. Its management staff has recently been strengthened by two nationally known figures: Sister Peter Claver, O.P., D.L.S., who has served as President of the Library Education Division of the American Library Association and as a member of the association's Committee on Accreditation; and the Reverend Thomas H. McBrien, O.P., St. D. While serving as president of the St. Thomas Aquinas Foundation, Father McBrien helped establish the Yale University unit of the Leonine Commission, an international program which is developing the critical edition of Aquinas' works.

CARA is the first and only national cooperative venture of its kind in the history of American Catholicism. Nearly 5 years of planning went into its creation. Another 5 years of trial and error have proved that the vision of its founders was quite correct: The center is meeting a genuine need of both the church and the American community. No doubt CARA will require several more years before it reaches its full potential. But it is well underway. As a center for applied research it is already fulfilling its original goal—helping to bring men closer to God and to each other through research and planning. The board and staff of this unique center are to be congratulated for the manner in which they are seeking to serve all Americans.

The material follows:
[From the Catholic Standard, Oct. 1, 1970]
CARA OFFERS A UNIQUE SERVICE TO CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, which designed the self-study of the Archdiocese, is a Washington-based research center that provides a service unique in American Catholicism.

In its five years in existence CARA has grown from modest beginning to a highly professional, diversified organization that puts the tools of modern research in the service of Church decision-makers.

CARA is located in the 1700 block of Massachusetts Ave., N.W.—known as Washington's "research row" because it houses a number of research and planning agencies. The center was started, however, in a converted row house near Catholic University in March, 1965.

RAPID GROWTH

Its rapid growth in physical facilities and, more important, in program and staff in the intervening five years indicates its growing acceptance and prestige. CARA is the only country agency in the country established to research and help plan all aspects of the U.S. Church's apostolic mission in the contemporary world, both a home and overseas.

As its name indicates, the center focuses not on "pure" research—knowledge for its own sake—but on the application of research findings to the decision-making process.

The center houses a number of departments. These include a church personnel department, which has conducted a number of studies on the recruitment, training and use of church manpower; a department of religious women; a theology department; a "town and country" department concerned with the Church's mission in small town and rural areas; several overseas departments; and a campus ministries department.

SELF-STUDY

The Washington self-study was designed by CARA's department of diocesan services, which also is providing professional staff and consultation for the life of the project. The project director is Father Gervase Beyer, O.F.M. Conv., while Gilbert A. Lowe, Jr., and Sister Marguerite Moore are research associates.

"Research is an essential component of sound decision-making in today's complicated, fast-changing world," Father Beyer commented recently. "Government and industry have come to recognize this fact, and increasingly the Church does too.

"We at CARA are honored that the Archdiocese of Washington has selected us to provide professional services to its self-study."

VARIED RESEARCH

The center has performed numerous research activities in its five years on behalf of the U.S. bishops, religious orders, dioceses, and other Church organizations. Among these have been developing a model program for training overseas missionaries; a study on the assessment of candidates for religious life; preparation of a national "profile" of

U.S. seminarians; a study of the role of parents in developing vocations; a number of workshops and orientation courses dealing with such subjects as the Church in the inner city, the non-metropolitan apostolate, Africa, and vocations; preparation of a U.S. seminary directory; and a major study of clergy distribution conducted for the bishops.

Currently the center's staff numbers more than 30 and includes sociologists, anthropologists, educators, theologians and specialists in other fields. Its work is carried out under the direction of a board made up of bishops, priests, religious and lay people.

CARA's research director is Father Louis Luzbetak, S.V.D., who has been with the center since its founding. An anthropologist and former Ford Foundation Overseas Research Fellow, he is the author of several works including the prize winning book, "The Church and Cultures: An Applied Anthropology for the Religious Worker."

DYNAMIC ACTION

The center, he says, is "tremendously interested in dynamic action," in line with its emphasis on "applied" research.

"We are concerned with the utilization of knowledge—with steering practical knowledge through channels that will end up in action," he declared.

The agency sets several definite criteria for taking on a research assignment. These include that the research be of "service to the apostolate" and therefore of service to the decision-makers in the Church, especially the hierarchy; that the research be based on sound theology; and that it be carried out according to professional research standards. The center also puts stress on the urgency of issues to be researched, their practicality, and the avoidance of duplication of work being done by others.

According to CARA staff members, the Washington Archdiocesan self-study—a massive undertaking aimed at evaluating the spectrum of apostolic activities here and developing plans for the future—is a major example of the sort of project the center exists to serve and will be a significant model for many other dioceses in the country. It will be, Father Beyer said, "the largest study of its kind ever undertaken by an American diocese."

From CARA's point of view, a particularly noteworthy feature of the Washington project will be its massive grassroots participation.

"We don't propose to bring in a team of researchers who will give the Archdiocese a once-over and come up with packaged solutions," Father Beyer said. "Instead, the plan calls for the people of the Archdiocese themselves to examine the full-range of the Church's programs, evaluate them—their strengths and their weaknesses—and develop plans of action for the future.

"CARA will be helping through this process. But we will not dictate the outcome."

IMPLEMENTATION

In line with the center's emphasis on the use of research findings to further the mission of the Church, CARA staff members already are thinking beyond the completion of the Washington self-study next June to the implementation phase, when plans of action developed during the project will be put into effect. They said it is likely that findings of the self-study will lead to new programs and structures in the Archdiocese, including probably an Archdiocesan-level office of research, plans and programs.

"We're promoting a cause—the mission of the Church," Father Luzbetak said.