

His Excellency
Most Reverend John P. Cody
D.D., Ph.D., J.C.D.
Archbishop of New Orleans

announces

The Center for
Applied Research in the Apostolate
(CARA)

C A R A

3620 - 12th Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017

It is my extreme pleasure as President of the Board of Directors of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) to announce that the Center is now an actuality. This is a fulfillment of the challenge issued by His Eminence, Richard Cardinal Cushing in September, 1961, who, as Honorary President of CARA, joins me in this announcement.

Up to the present, there has been in this country no mechanism capable of aiding an integrated apostolic effort supported by careful study, evaluation and scientific research. CARA will represent a serious attempt to fill this need in a thoroughly professional and scientific manner.

We live in an age in which the concept of universalism has captured the minds and imaginations of men. Today an astronaut orbits the earth at a speed of 18,000 miles an hour. Telegraph, telephone, radio, television and now Telstar have put men, formerly isolated from one another, into constant contact. Not only do we know almost instantly what happens in Paris or Little Rock or Leopoldville, but now we can actually see it as it is happening.

Furthermore, there is in men's hearts today a great desire for universalism. It is recognized in many quarters that the nation-state is no longer adequate to provide its citizens with all that is needed for personal development in the modern world. A sense of the international common good is growing; and if there is an international common good, there must be, as Pope John XXIII told us in *Pacem in Terris*, an international order to protect it.

Many secular organizations exist to function in the new dimension of universalism. One thinks of the United Nations, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Bank, or great private agencies like the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations. Religious bodies too have caught this spirit, as is evident in the work of the World Council of Churches and such Catholic organizations as Catholic Relief Services—NCWC.

In determining its approach to universalism, the Catholic Church stands at a crossroads. If it is unable to adapt to the new demands of a new age, there is danger of its being bypassed by the mainstream of history. This would be cruelly ironic, for Catholicism is essentially a universal religion. The mission given to Christ by the Father was universal, the mission entrusted by Christ to His Church is equally so. The members of the Church are to be “the light of the world,” bringing the good news of salvation to the whole of mankind.

The Mystical Body of Christ is the true and perfect universalism to which all men are called. In his encyclical on the Mystical Body, Pope Pius XII declared that the Church “is not and cannot be a stranger in any place. . . . The Church, therefore, is above nationalism, because she is an invisible and all embracing whole.” Moreover, through Baptism and the Eucharist, each individual Catholic comes to share in the universal mission of the Church. No man is an island, least of all a Catholic.

This is as true of American Catholics as any others. The Catholics of this nation must not view the Church and their role in it with the eyes of parochialism. Certain creations of the American hierarchy demonstrate their concern—in keeping with the spirit of the Second Vatican Council’s Constitution on the Church—for the welfare of the entire Church. Among these are Catholic Relief Services, the Catholic Committee for Refugees, the Papal Volunteers for Latin America and the Extension Volunteers, and many programs of N.C.W.C. departments.

There is, however, urgent need to expand and strengthen this effort. Particularly is there need to make up the lack of communication and coordination among the various Catholic organizations and institutions engaged in the universal apostolate. Much lost motion and duplication occur at present. And, sad to say, many Catholics have still not grasped the implications of the universal mission of Christ and the Church for their own lives and

activity. But how are we to correct these deficiencies and accomplish the task of education and coordination that needs to be performed if American Catholics are to function effectively in the universal apostolate of the Church.

The new Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) is one answer to this challenge. CARA will be located in Washington, D. C., with access to the various educational and governmental facilities available there. It will serve as a focal point for a continuing reexamination and rethinking of apostolic methods.

Basically, as its title indicates, CARA will be a research center. In these fast-changing times, it is hard to see how apostolic efforts can be adequate to current needs without continuing study and research. There is also special appropriateness in setting up such an agency at this time, as the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council comes in sight. All signs indicate that with the close of the council the involvement of U.S. Catholics in the universal apostolate will continue to increase at an accelerating pace. Many more religious communities, lay organizations, educational institutions and individuals will be actively involved in the mission of the Church at home and overseas.

The idea for such a center originated by Cardinal Cushing was developed by a study commission of distinguished religious and lay experts established by the superiors of the U.S. mission-sending societies. The commission has met many times in the past several years to evaluate the need and determine the best means of satisfying it. Out of its findings and recommendations has grown the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. CARA will not, however, be concerned solely with the apostolate of the mission-sending societies. Its commitment and task will encompass the entire apostolic mission of the Church.

What exactly will CARA do? Broadly speaking, when fully organized (a process that may take several years, although CARA will begin functioning immediately), the Center will be carrying on at least nine distinct functions:

1. *Coordination, study and research.* Numerous resources for research in the apostolate presently exist but have not been brought together. There are many depth studies and data already available. This material will be compiled by the Center and made available to interested groups within the Church.

2. *Cooperation with organizations engaged in the universal apostolate.* The Center will not try to legislate for or direct other groups and agencies. Rather, it will serve in a purely informative and consultative capacity and seek to act as a liaison between existing groups in order to prevent waste and duplication in their efforts.

3. *Promoting research in every field that will contribute to the success of the Church's spiritual and social mission.* The Center will draw on the vast resources of the Church in the United States for the latest findings in sociology, Scripture, theology, psychology, missiology, area studies, anthropology, economics, catechetics, liturgy, agronomy, and any other relevant science. It will promote such research by Catholic universities and professional groups.

4. *Initiating research.* Some specialized research will be carried out by the Center itself at the request of the bishops and other responsible authorities. For this reason the Center will develop a depository of information, clearing house facilities and files.

5. *Alerting those interested in the universal apostolate.* The Center will play an active not a passive role. It will call attention to new sources of information, new techniques, trends and developments that have bearing on the mission of the Church.

6. *Fostering the formation of apostolic workers.* On the request of interested organizations, the Center will develop information concerning training programs in the apostolate for seminarians, laymen and Sisters. It will conduct and collate studies on the psychology of vocations and related matters. It will carry out special studies on the role of laymen in the apostolate.

7. *Communicating its findings.* The Center will make known its findings to appropriate individuals and organizations through various media.

8. *Evaluating information.* The Center will make it a point to provide evaluation of the data it supplies in order to prevent duplication and wasted effort.

9. *Assisting in developing the sense of the universal apostolate in the minds of Catholics.* The Center will seek to remind Catholics of their true mission in the Church and to persuade them to accept their proper roles in carrying out this mission.

The organization of the Center will be carried out over a

period of time. We are fortunate to have secured as its administrator Father Louis J. Luzbetak, S.V.D. Father Luzbetak is the holder of the S.T.L. and J.C.B. degrees from the Gregorian University in Rome and the Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Fribourg. A former Ford Foundation Overseas Research Fellow, he has had missionary experience in the South Seas as well as experience in missionary training and formation as professor and director of the Divine Word Missionaries' post-ordination training program. Father Luzbetak teaches anthropology at the Catholic University of America; he is visiting professor and co-director of the Linguistics for Missionaries program at Georgetown University, president of the Catholic Anthropological Association, associate editor of the *Anthropological Quarterly*, a member of the *Anthropos Institute* and a Fellow of the *American Anthropological Association*. His publications include specialized anthropological studies and "The Church and Cultures (An Applied Anthropology for Religious Workers)."

In general, and with anticipated overlapping, it is expected that the Center's organization will develop along the following lines:

—*Coordination of Studies, Evaluation and Research.* This section will deal with such subjects as religious sociology, anthropology, psychology, linguistics, missiology, socio-economics, catechetics, political science, liturgy and so on. It will bring together studies already made and will encourage depth research projects by universities and professional groups. In certain instances, it will collaborate with such institutions and organizations in developing research projects.

—*Formation and Training.* This section will, upon request, seek to develop more effective apostolic training programs for seminarians, Religious and laymen. It will also make studies on the development of vocations.

—*Extension Services.* This section of the Center will distribute research findings, coordination data and other service materials to individuals and organizations in this country and overseas. It will also handle requests for information on specific topics.

—*Development.* The development section will take steps to make CARA a meeting place for discussion and intellectual exchange by scholars and specialists in various fields. It will promote workshops, seminars and similar events for this purpose.

—*Personnel Deployment.* This section will act in a service and liaison capacity, forwarding requests from the field to appropriate sources of aid, counselling in the strategic placing of personnel, and organizing evaluation teams to judge the effectiveness of apostolic work in a given area.

—*Publications.* This section will publish findings developed by the Center through research, coordination, workshops and seminars and so on. It will seek to place such material in the hands of those individuals and organizations who need it most.

—*Depository of Information.* It will keep abreast of the latest publications in relevant fields of study with special emphasis on bibliographies. It will also be a depository for information from such sources as missionaries, schools, governmental and international agencies, and from the Center's own activities. It is envisioned that the depository will provide research facilities for qualified persons.

—*Finance.* The Center will also include a finance section and director to explore and develop avenues of support for its work.

The work of the Center will be supervised under my Presidency by a Board of Directors representing a diversity of interests in the American Catholic Church. The Board members are: Very Rev. James M. Darby, S.M., president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men's Institutes in the U.S.A.; Rev. Mother Kathryn Marie, C.S.C., superior general of the Sisters of the Holy Cross; Most Rev. Philip M. Hannan, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington; Most Rev. Victor J. Reed, Bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa; Most Rev. Edward E. Swanstrom, executive director of Catholic Relief Services-NCWC; Most Rev. John W. Comber, M.M., superior general of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America (Maryknoll Fathers); Mr. Harry J. O'Haire, executive director of Serra International; Rev. Frederick A. McGuire, C.M., executive secretary of the Mission Secretariat; Very Rev. Msgr. John L. May, general secretary of the Catholic Church Extension Society; Miss Margaret Mealey, executive director of the National Council of Catholic Women; Rev. John J. Considine, M.M., director of the Latin America Bureau, N.C.W.C.; Rev. Mother Mary Consolatrice, B.V.M., superior general of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Rev. Mother Mary Regina Cunningham, R.S.M., mother general of the Sisters of Mercy of the Union; and

Mr. Martin H. Work, executive director of the National Council of Catholic Men.

There is much work for CARA to do—a tremendous challenge and a tremendous opportunity. It can exert great influence on the development of Catholic life. It can inspire and assist the diocesan apostolate. It can help orient Catholic intellectual life to the needs of the world—and the universal mission of the Church and each one of its members. It can encourage new efforts where none now exists and offer coordination to work already in progress. It can give American Catholics engaged in apostolic programs a new sense of purposeful direction and unity in the task of winning mankind for and to Christ.

Most Reverend John P. Cody D.D., Ph.D., J.C.D.
Archbishop of New Orleans