USCCB EXEC JOHN CARR FAILS TO ADDRESS FINDINGS IN REPORT ON PRO-ABORTION, GAY MARRIAGE GROUP :: Personhood Pro-Life, Pro-Family Organizations -> 'The Personhood Imperative'

American Life League

02 February 2010 CONTACT: Katie Walker 540.659.4942| <u>kwalker@all.org</u>

Washington, DC (02 February 2010) – American Life League and the Bellarmine Vertias Ministry, working with the Reform CCHD Now coalition, released two separate reports Monday on United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) ties with the Center for Community Change (CCC), a stridently pro-abortion, pro-homosexuality organization.

Specifically addressed in the report from ALL is USCCB exec John Carr's simultaneous membership on the CCC board and employment with the USCCB.

In his response to Our Sunday Visitor, John Carr, who oversees the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) failed to address the points raised in the ALL or BVM reports including:

- Why over 50 CCHD supported organizations are in some capacity engaged in pro-abortion or prohomosexual causes

- Why Tom Chabolla, associate director of programs for CCHD, replaced Carr on the CCC board while the CCC was heavily engaged in pro-abortion, pro-homosexual advocacy

- Why 31 CCHD grantees are "partners" with the CCC

- Why Ralph McCloud, CCHD executive director, spoke at a CCC-sponsored rally for Barack Obama. McCloud, referred to Obama's election as, "a great day," and proclaimed "very soon we will see a new Jerusalem"

- Why Carr's USCCB bio omits his involvement with the CCC, while near word-for-word copies of his bio for outside activities include it

- If Carr didn't know the direction the CCC was headed while chairing the board of the organization, how will he address, as the head of the CCHD, the ongoing problem of funding for radical proabortion, pro-homosexual groups

Since ALL's report released Monday, both the CCC and USCCB made immediate changes to their websites which housed the evidence. CCC immediately announced it had severed ties with the Movement Vision Lab, which was a main source of criticism, and the USCCB deleted the statement on the CCHD's Poverty USA webpage calling for support of the CCC.

American Life League was cofounded in 1979 by Judie Brown. It is the largest grassroots Catholic pro-life organization in the United States and is committed to the protection of all innocent human beings from the moment of creation to natural death. For more information or press inquiries, please contact Katie Walker at 540.659.4942.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

American Life League: Conference of Catholic Bishops Exec Chaired Pro-Abortion, LGBT Rights Group (01 February 2010)

http://all.org/article.php?id=12507

Bellarmine Veritas Ministry: Addressing the CCHD http://bellarmineveritasministry.org/campaigns/cchd/

Our Sunday Visitor: USCCB's John Carr responds to 'unfair allegations' (01 February 2010) <u>http://www.osvdailytake.com/2010/02/usccbs-john-carr-responds-to-unfair.html</u>

Inside Catholic: More Disturbing News about the CCHD (02 February 2010) <u>http://insidecatholic.com/Joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7604&Itemid=48</u>

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U.S. Bishops' Exec Responds to Charges of Cooperation with Pro-Abortion, Homosexualist Group

By Patrick B. Craine February 2, 2010 LifeSiteNews

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 2, 2010 (<u>LifeSiteNews.com</u>) – John Carr, the U.S. Bishops' (USCCB) chief advisor on social justice for the last two decades, and who oversees the controversial Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), has responded to two reports filed yesterday by members of the Reform CCHD Now coalition (RCN).

These reports revealed the homosexualism and abortion activism of the Center for Community Change (CCC), and the fact that Carr has been long associated with them, even serving as chair of the board while working for the USCCB.

CCC says it "strengthens, connects and mobilizes grassroots groups to enhance their leadership, voice and power." In a previous <u>November report</u>, Michael Hichborn of American Life League (ALL), an RCN member, published evidence that 31 CCHD grantees are among these "grassroots groups."

Rob Gasper of the Bellarmine Veritas Ministry (BVM), another RCN member, issued a <u>follow-up</u> report yesterday, explaining that further investigation of CCC was necessary because "CCHD has not responded publicly or privately to the [initial] allegations."

Gasper furnishes further evidence that homosexual and abortion "rights" are fundamental to CCC's progressive vision. He shows, for example, that CCC has advocated for abortion funding in health care reform, which includes membership in a Stop Stupak coalition – a reference to the amendment in the House health care bill that maintained the federal ban on abortion funding. They've also received a \$50,000 grant from the homosexualist Gill Foundation to develop leaders for the homosexualist movement.

Hichborn also <u>issued</u> a report yesterday, revealing that Carr, the executive director of the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development, has been associated with CCC since the early 1980s, and that he served on the CCC board from 1999-2006 (though the USCCB clarified that he left in 2005).

Carr responded to the reports yesterday afternoon, rebuffing ALL and BVM for not contacting him or CCHD before publishing, and maintaining that he "had no involvement in or knowledge of the actions alleged in the press release."

"My experience with CCC was that it focused on poverty, housing and immigration and had no involvement in issues involving abortion and homosexuality," he said. "When I served, the board never discussed or acted on any position involving these matters, and if they had, I would have vigorously opposed any advocacy for access to abortion or gay marriage."

But Gasper told LSN that he had been in touch with Ralph McCloud, CCHD national director, in December about their CCC findings. McCloud told Gasper that he would get back to him, but Gaspar never heard back. Furthermore, Gasper told LSN that he, ALL, and Human Life International (HLI) had sought to meet with CCHD, but Carr told Gasper in November that he would not meet with ALL or HLI.

Additionally, RCN has produced <u>evidence</u> that CCC hired homosexual activist Sally Kohn in 2004 to be the director of their Movement Vision Lab, and Carr admits to serving on the CCC board until February 2005. From 1997-2000, Kohn <u>held</u> a fellowship with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Still in 2004, in her position at CCC, Kohn published an article in which she decried opposition to homosexual "marriage."

In an e-mail to LifeSiteNews, Rob Gasper insisted that he does not doubt Carr's "pro-life credentials," but said he was "disappointed to learn" that he had been a leader "with a group like the [CCC]."

"We must remember that the pattern of cooperation with the CCC involves more than John Carr's past board membership," he emphasized. He pointed out that former CCHD [director] Tom Chabolla joined CCC's board shortly after Carr, and served "during the time period when CCC ramped up its anti-life activities."

He indicated further the fact that Ralph McCloud participated in a forum co-hosted by CCC to celebrate the election of [Alleged] President Barack Obama. As seen on C-Span, McCloud lauded the election of vehemently pro-abortion Obama, calling it "a great day." He also mentioned the 31 CCHD

grantees who are still members of CCC, and the fact that the USCCB website called on Catholics to support CCC on its website until that reference was removed following yesterday's reports.

"I cannot see how engaging with a group that holds such divergent fundamental principles of human dignity could help advance the legitimate social concerns of the Church without an unintended compromise of principles taking place," he said.

In an ALL press release yesterday, Hichborn commented: "The closer we look at the Bishops Conference [staff and programs], the more we find a systemic pattern of cooperation with evil."

Commenting today on Carr's response to their report, Hichborn told LSN that Carr "completely missed the point." "Our report was not about him, as he makes it out to be," he continued. "It is about the chronic cooperation the USCCB has had with CCC over the years, and his chairmanship of the CCC board was just a piece of the bigger picture."

Pointing out the same, above-mentioned, facts as Gasper, Hichborn said: "Given these facts, combined with the information from [BVM's report], this is the pattern of cooperation I was referencing."

LifeSiteNews contacted Carr yesterday, but he said he had no comment.

See yesterday's two reports:

Revisiting the Center for Community Change

Sleeping with the Enemy: Conference of Catholic Bishops cooperation with pro-abortion organizations

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