

Searching in Atla's Databases: Catholic Documents and Canon Law

September 28, 2023

The logo for Atla, consisting of the lowercase letters 'atla' in a white, sans-serif font, centered within a dark teal diamond shape. The diamond is part of a larger graphic design of overlapping teal and white geometric shapes, including lines and triangles, that fills the bottom half of the slide.

atla



▶ Barnaby Hughes has worked as a Metadata Editor since 2014 indexing Catholic journals and church documents, training metadata team members, revising editorial policies and procedures, and ensuring metadata quality.



▶ Joel Schorn, M.T.S., is a Metadata Editor for Atla. He has worked for Atla from 1987 to 1992 and currently from 2014. He also served as field advocate of the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago.



▶ Jill Annitto, Head of Metadata and Editorial Operations, joined Atla in 2018. Her day-to-day includes managing the Metadata team, curating The Religion Database, and working on projects with her colleagues across the organization



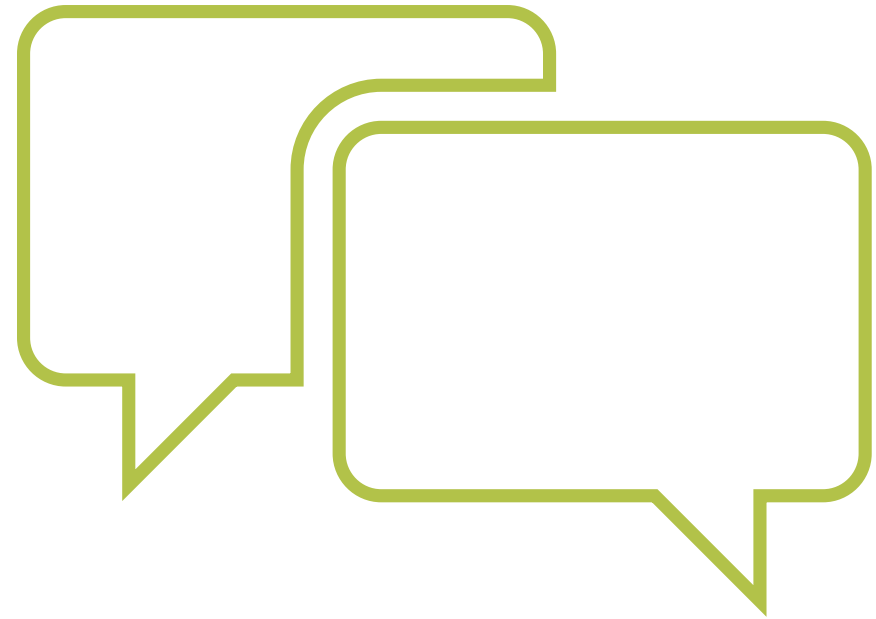
▶ Todd Aiello has worked as a Product Specialist for Atla since 2021 and is responsible for maintaining and disseminating updated knowledge of Atla's research tools and contributing to marketing and product development efforts

Don't forget to register for the next webinars in this series, taking place on October 11 and November 2!

More info available on our website

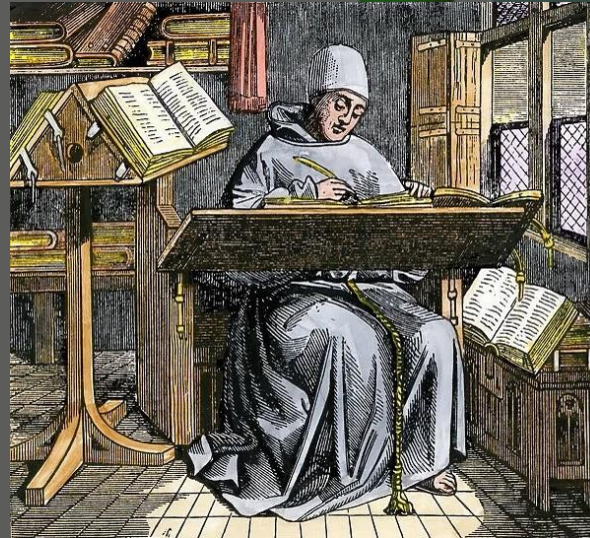
Questions

- ▶ Use the chat box for any questions, comments, and technical difficulties. Q&A allows for anonymous questions.
- ▶ Our presenters will answer questions throughout the session as well as provide time for additional questions at the end.



Canon Law Records in Atla Serials

Joel Schorn, MTS, Atla Metadata-Editor



Definition

- **“Canon/church law”**: The internal set of laws, rules, regulations, and statutes that a church codifies to administer its own operations. For the Roman Catholic Church, the body of law exercised by the Roman Curia and all church courts that regulates all church affairs. It is collected in the 1983 *Code of Canon Law (Codex Iuris Canonici)*, a reform of the 1917 (the “Pio-Benedictine”) Code which Pope John XXIII called for in 1959 and which Pope John Paul II promulgated on 1/25/83.

“Canon Law” Headings by Tradition (I):

- Canon law [Roman Catholic]
- Canon law, Anglican
- Canon law--Eastern churches
- Canon law, Oriental Catholic
- Canon law, Oriental Orthodox
- Canon law, Orthodox Eastern

“Canon Law” by Tradition (II):

- Criminal law (Canon law)--Oriental Catholic churches
- Divorce (Canon law)--Anglican Communion
- Divorce (Canon law)--Orthodox Eastern Church
- Marriage (Canon law)--Orthodox Eastern Church
- Punishment (Canon law)--Oriental Catholic churches
- Remarriage (Canon law)--Orthodox Eastern Church

Protestant denominations:

- United Methodist Church--Book of Discipline
- [Corporate name of denomination]--Discipline
- --Doctrine
- --Government
- --Membership

Principal Actively Indexed Canon Law Journals in Atla Titles Lists

- **Bulletin of Medieval Canon Law**
- **Communicationes**
- **Ius canonicum**
- **Ius Communionis**
- **Ius Ecclesiae**
- **The Jurist**
- **Periodica de re Canonica**
- **Periodica de re morali, canonica, liturgica**
- **Proceedings of the Canon Law Society of America Annual Meeting**
- **Revista española de derecho canónico**
- **Studia Canonica**

Some Qualifications

Exceptions

- Secular law-related headings
- “Religious law” and related headings

Important to note:

- “Ecclesiastical law”: Civil law applied to churches

Other Journals with Canon Law Articles

Searching “Canon law” in the subject field for articles in Atla’s Religion Complete database returns 8,917 article records, so articles related to Canon law can be found across many titles.



Search input field with a close button (x) on the right.

Search

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

Subjects

Browsing: ATLA -- Subject Thesaurus

Input field containing "canon law" and a "Browse" button.

Term Begins With Term Contains Relevancy Ranked

Page: [◀ Previous](#) [Next ▶](#)

Select term, then add to search using:

Explode

(Click term to display details.)

- [Canon law](#)
- [Canon law -- Cases](#)
- [Canon law -- Church documents](#)
- [Canon law -- Commentaries](#)
- [Canon law -- Comparative studies](#)
- [Canon law -- Computer network resources](#)
- [Canon law -- Congresses](#)
- [Canon law -- Eastern churches](#)
- [Canon law -- Handbooks, manuals, etc.](#)



General Topical Headings (I)

- Adoption (Canon law)
- Altars (Canon law)
- Asylum, Right of (Canon law)
- Attachment and garnishment (Canon law)
- Benefices (Canon Law)
- Canon law
- Canon law--Church documents
- Canon law--Comparative studies
- Canon law--Reception

General Topical Headings (II)

- Abortion (Canon law)
- Adoption (Canon law)
- Adultery (Canon law)
- Altars (Canon law)
- Archives (Canon law)
- Art, Christian (Canon law)
- Asylum, Right of (Canon law)
- Attachment and garnishment (Canon law)
- Bankruptcy (Canon law)
- Benefices (Canon Law)
- Bigamy (Canon law)
- Birth control (Canon law)
- Bishops (Canon law)
- Burial laws (Canon law)
- Canon law

“Procedure”-Related Headings

- Actions and defenses (Canon law)
- Advisory opinions (Canon law)
- Administrative acts (Canon law)
- Administrative law (Canon law)
- Administrative procedure (Canon law)
- Administrative responsibility (Canon law)
- Appellate procedure (Canon law)
- Arbitration and award (Canon law)
- Civil procedure (Canon law)
- Criminal law (Canon law)
- Criminal procedure (Canon law)
- Customary law (Canon law)
- Defense (Canon Law)
- Evidence (Canon law)

Sacrament-Related Headings

- Sacraments (Canon law)
- Absolution (Canon law)
- Baptism (Canon law)
- Confession (Canon law)
- Confessors (Canon law)
- Confirmation (Canon law)
- Extreme unction (Canon law)
- Lord's Supper (Canon law)
- Penance (Canon law)
- Marriage (Canon law) [see below]

Consecrated Life-Related Headings

- Associations of the Christian faithful (Canon law)
- Institutes of consecrated life (Canon law)
- Master of novices
- Monastic and religious life (Canon law)
- Monasticism and religious orders (Canon law)
- Monasticism and religious orders for women (Canon law)
- Novitiate (Canon law)
- Postulancy (Canon law)
- Profession (in religious orders) (Canon law)
- Religious institutes (Canon law)--
- Secular institutes (Canon law)
- Societies living in common without vows (Canon law)
- Societies of apostolic life (Canon law)
- Superiors, Religious (Canon law)

Marriage-Related Headings (I)

- Civil marriage (Canon law)
- Divorce (Canon law)
- Husband and wife (Canon law)
- Impediments to marriage (Canon law)
- Impotence (Canon law)
- Interfaith marriage (Canon law)
- Marriage (Canon law)
- Marriage (Canon law)--Anglican Communion; --Orthodox Eastern Church) . . .

Marriage-Related Headings (II)

- Marriage (Canon law)--Annulment
- Marriage (Canon law)--Congresses
- Marriage (Canon law)--Dispensations
- Marriage (Canon law)--Dissolution
- Marriage (Canon law)--History
- Matrimonial actions (Canon law)
- Nullity (Canon law)
- Remarriage (Canon law)

Corporate Headings (I)

- **Canadian Canon Law Society**
- **Canon Law Society of America**
- **Oriental Canon Law Society**
- **Catholic Church, Rota Romana** [tries cases appealed from ordinary and other tribunals or already tried by the Rota itself]
- **Catholic Church, Signatura Apostolica** [adjudicates recourses against Rotal decisions, cases Rota refuses to reexamine, suspicion of Rotal judges, some conflicts of competence between tribunals]

Corporate Headings (II)

A number of institutions offer canon courses and training, but only three canon law faculties in North America offer official certifying degrees:

- Catholic University of America, Department of Canon Law
- Saint Paul University (Ottawa, Ont) [Saint Paul University (Ottawa, Ont.), Faculté de droit canonique]
- [Universidad Pontificia de México]

Headings for Codices

- Catholic Church--Codex canonum ecclesiarum Orientalium [1990]
- Catholic Church--Codex Juris Canonici (1917)
- Catholic Church--Codex Juris Canonici (1983)

Other Canon Law History Headings

Persons (cross-referenced)

- Honourius
- Gratian, active 12th century [for *Decretum Gratiani*; also “Decretals”]
- Henricus, de Segusio, Cardinal, approximately 1200-1271

Collections

- Pseudo-Isidorian decretals
- Polycarpus (Canon law collection)
- Summa Lipsiensis

Some Types of Articles to Note

—Annual **papal allocutions** to Rota—at the beginning of the year found in several journals and in several languages.

—**Bibliographic articles** (found through EBSCO Boolean search SU Subject “Canon law” and GD Subject Genre “Bibliographies”)

- **Bibliographies:** Periodica de re Canonica; Bulletin of Medieval Canon Law; Recherches de science religieuse; Revue théologique de Louvain; Revista española de derecho canónico; Revue théologique de Louvain; La Scuola cattolica; Transversalités; Ostkirchliche Studien; Teología y Vida; Theologische Literaturzeitung; Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses
- **Dissertations and Theses:** The Jurist; Revista española de derecho canónico; Periodica de re Canonica; Revue des sciences religieuses; Nouvelle Revue Théologique

Texts of Canon Law Cases

- *Formats vary in individual serial titles, but general metadata guidelines apply:*
- **Title:** Next line of text after the section name or after the name of the issuing body (e.g., case name)
- If the text is in more than **language**, e.g., Latin and Spanish, both languages entered
- **Contributors:** Issuing church body (corporate—Roman Rota or Apostolic Signatura) and signing officials of that body (individuals) if both are listed. If case text is accompanied by a commentary, we do not index the commentary as a separate record, even if it has its own title; pagination of the commentary is included in total pagination and commentator entered as a contributor with the “commentator with text” Relator Code
- **Subject headings:** subject matter of the case; the genre heading Church documents since the item is an official publication of the issuing dicastery and a document date added

Some Headings to Note (I)

- Canon law--Interpretation and construction
- Child sexual abuse by clergy (Canon law)
- Canon law and civil law [Atla-created]
- Catholic Church—Inter-ecclesial relations; Variants (use for): Catholic Church--Relations--Eastern churches, Catholic; Romanization [Atla-created]
- Internal forum (Canon law) [Atla-created]: *Forum* means place of judging, the judge, and the power of judging. The normal exercise of governance is in the *external forum*, i.e., exercised for the public good. *Internal forum*, like tribunals, affects a small number of persons and is not made known to others.
- Particular law (Canon law) [legislative action by episcopal conferences] [Atla-created]

Some Headings to Note (II)

Potential areas of confusion in previous subject analysis:

- “Canon law—Cases”
- “Religious law”
- CPLI and other earlier records

Resources (I)

Online:

- *Code of Canon Law* (1983): vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/cic_index_en.html
- *Codex canonum ecclesiarum Orientalium* (1990): vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/la/apost_constitutions/documents/hf_jp-ii_apc_19901018_index-codex-can-eccl-orient.html
- Canon Law Centre Glossary of Canonical Terms: canonlawcentre.com/glossary-of-canonical-terms/
- “Canon law resources on the internet,” *Journal of Religious & Theological Information*, 4 no 1 2001, pp. 71-89 [PDF full text available through EBSCO]

Resources (I)

Online (cont'd):

- [https://isidore.co/CalibreLibrary/Benedict%20XV,%20Pope/The%201917%20or%20Pio-Benedictine%20Code%20of%20Canon%20Law_%20In%20English%20Translation%20with%20Extensive%20Scholarly%20\(7786\)/The%201917%20or%20Pio-Benedictine%20Code%20of%20Canon%20-%20Benedict%20XV,%20Pope.pdf](https://isidore.co/CalibreLibrary/Benedict%20XV,%20Pope/The%201917%20or%20Pio-Benedictine%20Code%20of%20Canon%20Law_%20In%20English%20Translation%20with%20Extensive%20Scholarly%20(7786)/The%201917%20or%20Pio-Benedictine%20Code%20of%20Canon%20-%20Benedict%20XV,%20Pope.pdf)

Print:

- *New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law*, ed. by John P. Beal, James A. Coriden, and Thomas J. Green (Paulist Press, 2000)

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