Searching in Atla’s Research Databases

Catholic Church Documents
Introduction

- Sources of Church Documents
- How We Index Church Documents
- Searching for Church Documents
RDB only includes church documents published in serials that we index
Sources of Church Documents

- Acta Apostolicae Sedis, 1980-
- L’Osservatore Romano, English edition, 1980-
- The Pope Speaks, 1980-2005
- Origins, 1980-2021
- La Documentation Catholique, 1980-2003
- Notitiae, 1980-
- Communicationes, 1978-
Documents by Number

OR = 17,0005 documents
AAS = 9,450 documents
Origins = 2,399 documents
DC = 2,102 documents
Pope Speaks = 1,232 documents
Other = 4,626 documents

Total = 36,814 documents
How We Index Church Documents

Field by Field
Searchable fields

- Title
- Author
- Language
- Subject
- Genre
- Papal date
Papal vs. church documents
Church documents

- Written by the Secretariat of State, dicastery, tribunal, ecumenical council, or Synod of Bishops
- Excludes pontifical academies and bishops’ conferences
- Includes treaties
Papal documents

- Written by the pope while in office
- Documents jointly issued by the pope and another religious leader
What’s the title?

Main title: Beatificationis Servae Dei Mariae Christinae ab Immaculata Conceptione (in saec.: Adelaidis Brando) fundatricis Congregationis Victimarum Expiatricum a Sacramento Iesu (1856-1906)

Subtitle: Decretum super virtutibus
ACTA IOANNIS PAULI PP. II

EPISTULA APOSTOLICA

Episcopis, clero, fidelibus anni M Mülbæum ad parandum

Venerabiles in episcopatu Fratres,
Carissimi in Christo filii filiaque

Catholic Church. Pope (2013- : Francis)

- Decretal letters
- Encyclical letters
- Apostolic letters
- Apostolic constitutions
- Apostolic exhortations
Francis, Pope, 1936-

- Sermons
- Speeches
- Messages
- Interviews
Who is the author?

- The dicastery, not the prefect and secretary who sign
- The tribunal, not the judges who rule
- The Secretariat of State, not Cardinal Parolin
- Interdicasterial documents can have multiple authors
Language

- Language of titles is ignored
- For multilingual documents, each language is noted
We used to two versions of this heading, one with a form subdivision, the other with a topical subdivision.

Since they appear identically in EBSCO, we are discontinuing the form subdivision.

Records that are encyclicals will also have Papal documents as a genre.
Church documents with a second genre

Treaties
Papal documents with a second genre

- Sermons
- Speeches
- Interviews
- Letters
Topical subdivision used as genre

- Catholic Church. Pope (2013- : Francis)--Apostolic constitutions
- Catholic Church. Pope (2013- : Francis)--Decretal letters
- Francis, Pope, 1936---Angelus and Regina Caeli addresses
- Francis, Pope, 1936---Consistories
- Francis, Pope, 1936---General audiences
- Francis, Pope, 1936---Messages
Subject as genre

- Papal visits
- Ad limina visits
- Beatification sermons
- Canonization sermons
Papal date:
YYYYMMDD
Searching for Church Documents

In EBSCO