

# Searching in Atla's Research Databases

Catholic Church Documents

The Atla logo consists of the word "atla" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, centered within a dark teal diamond shape. This diamond is part of a larger graphic design featuring several overlapping teal and white geometric shapes, including triangles and lines, creating a dynamic, layered effect.

atla

James Humble, Kathy Harty, Elyse Hayes and Andrew Kosmowski,  
“Catholic Documents 101: A Theological Librarian’s Guide to Identifying, Locating, and Using the Documents of the Catholic Church,” *ATLA Summary of Proceedings* 72 (2018), 211-218.

# 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

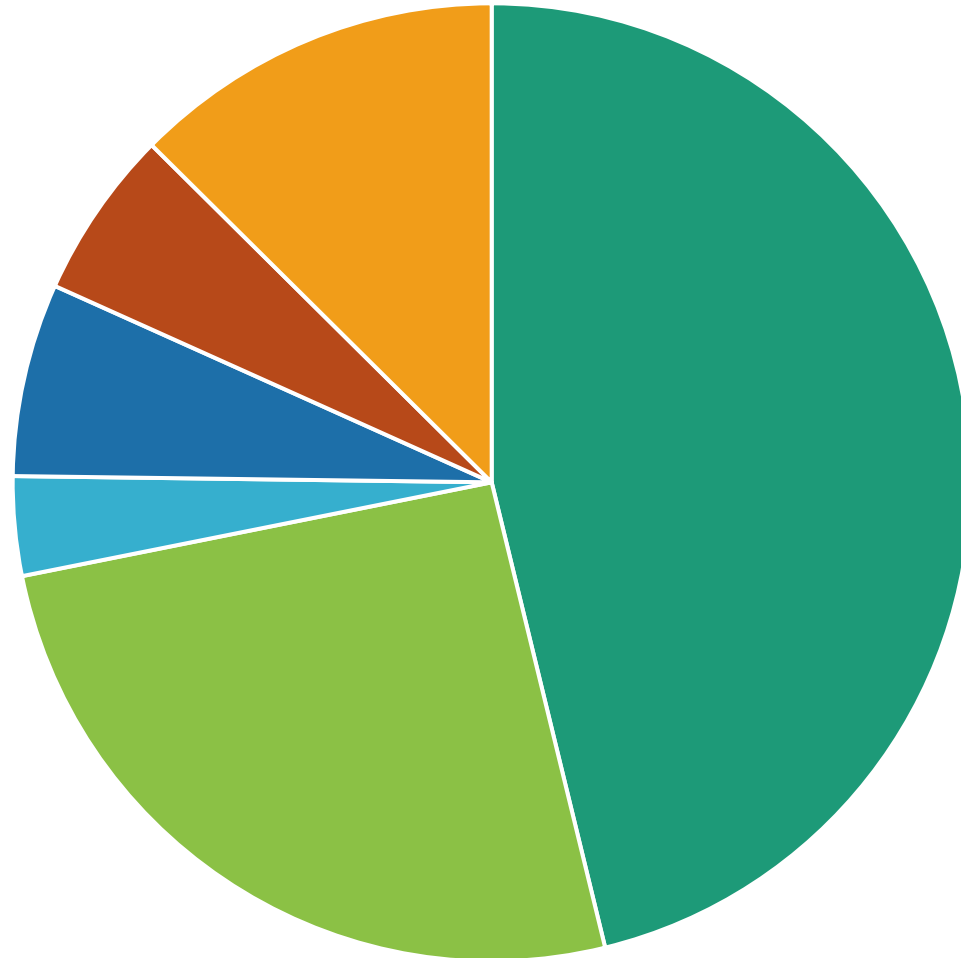
DC = 2,102 documents

Pope Speaks = 1,232 documents

Other = 4,626 documents

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Total = 36,814 documents



- L'Osservatore Romano
- Acta Apostolicae Sedis
- The Pope Speaks
- Origins
- La Documentation Catholique
- Other

# 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 Sacramentato Iesu (1856-  
1906)

Subtitle: Decretum super virtutibus

## III

### NEAPOLITANA

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

### DECRETUM SUPER VIRTUTIBUS

« Una atque individua Christi Domini in caelis gloriosi existentia non multiplicatur, sed Sacramento praesens efficitur variis in terrarum orbis locis, Eucharisticum sacrificium peragitur. Eadem autem existentia, post celebratum sacrificium, praesens manet in Sanctissimo Sacramento, quod, in altaris tabernaculo, veluti vivum cor nostrorum templorum est. Quam ob rem suavissimo sane officio tenemur honore affiendi atque adorandi in Hostia Sancta, quam oculi nostri intuentur, Verbum ipsum incarnatum,

# What's the title?

Main title: Episcopis, clero, fidelibus anni MM Iubilaeum ad parandum

Variant title: Tertio millennio adveniente

## ACTA IOANNIS PAULI PP. II

### EPISTULA APOSTOLICA

Episcopis, clero, fidelibus anni MM Iubilaeum ad parandum

*Venerabiles in episcopatu Fratres,  
Carissimi in Christo filii filiaeque*

1. Tertio millennio adveniente novae quidem aetatis ad apostoli Pauli voces mens ultro recurrit: « Ubi venit plenitudo temporis, misit Deus Filium suum, factum ex muliere » (*Gal 4, 4*). Temporis autem illa plenitudo cum Verbi Incarnationis congruit mysterio, Filii videlicet consubstantialis Patri, necnon cum orbis arcano Redemptionis. Hoc loco ipso effert sanctus Paulus Dei Filium e muliere ortum natumque sub Lege inter homines venisse, ut quotquot Legi subderentur redimeret qui filiorum adoptionem recipere deinde possent. Et addit: « Quoniam autem estis filii, misit Deus Spiritum Filii sui in corda nostra clamantem: "Abba, Pater" ». Consolatur vero magnopere conclusio eius: « Itaque iam non es servus sed filius; quod si filius, et heres per Deum » (*Gal 4, 6-7*).

## Papal documents

# Catholic Church. Pope (2013- : Francis)

- ▼ Decretal letters
- ▼ Encyclical letters
- ▼ Apostolic letters
- ▼ Apostolic constitutions
- ▼ Apostolic exhortations

# Papal documents

## 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

## Subject

# Catholic Church. Pope (2013- : Francis)— Encyclical letters

- ▼ 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

Genre

# Church documents with a second genre

▼ Treaties

Genre

# 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)-- Apostolic exhortations
- ▼ Catholic Church. Pope (2013- : Francis)-- Apostolic letters
- ▼ 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

## Subject as genre

- ▼ Papal visits
- ▼ Ad limina visits
- ▼ Beatification sermons
- ▼ Canonization sermons

Papal date:  
YYYYMMDD

# Searching for Church Documents

In EBSCO







# atla

Collectors & Connectors  
in Religion & Theology