CL 503 – CANON LAW I

FALL 2014

COURSE SYLLABUS

Class Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.

Class Location: Classroom 2

Professor: Rev. John Joseph Payne, J.C.L., Judge Metropolitan Tribunal, Second Floor 7887 Walmsley Ave. (Chancery) 504-861-6291 (Monday-Thursday) jpayne@arch-no.org

Office Hours: At the Tribunal at Walmsley 7887 Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 PM and by appointment

Course Description: 3 credit hours

This course is a basic introduction to canon law with special emphasis upon the role of the priest as sanctifier, teacher, parish administrator and official representative of the Church’s Magisterium.

Course Rationale:

In furthering the spread of the Gospel, the parish priest must exercise in the community of the Church the roles of sanctifier, teacher, and administrator. All these roles require an understanding of canon law: in sanctifying, so that the sacraments are celebrated validly and licitly, in teaching, so that the teaching of the magisterium of the Church is presented in a faithful and authentic manner; in administering, so that the temporal goods of the Church are administered through correct, prudent, and licit methods.

Envisioned Outcomes:

This course will equip students with the canonical knowledge necessary for the pastoral works in the parish within the framework of “Priest, Prophet and King.” One should be able to concretize and appropriate theological principles and values as they relate to Canon Law. It will present a broad introduction to all the books of the Code with the exceptions of those which are covered in CL 505: Book VII and the marriage section of Book IV.
Required Texts:


(This is the most recent American Commentary.)

*The Obligations and Rights of the Pastor of a Parish According to the Code of Canon Law*,  


Course Requirements and Grading:

Class attendance, participation, and assigned readings (10%), Periodic quizzes (30%), Midterm Exam (20%), Final Exam (40%) – The present CODE of CANON LAW (1983 edition) is to be brought to every class with note taking materials, leave commentaries in your room.
Here is the method to the madness: this class attempts to teach you what you need to know as a priest about Canon Law in a mere three credit hours excepting many of the complications of marriage law, which is found in another course. This means you need to read a LOT and become familiar on your own with the Canons. It will be overwhelming at times. This is normal. That is why canon law inspires fear in most normal people, and especially ecclesiastics. As St. Pope John Paul II sayeth: “Do not be afraid!” It will get simpler as you build this preliminary foundation. It will seem like too much at first, but realize it will become much easier as you proceed, because the beginning principles in General Norms are consistently applied throughout the whole code. So don't lose heart and work hard at the beginning and it will be easier as time goes on, like travelling up a steep hill at first and then coming to where the hill rounds off. What will determine your success or failure is how much study/effort you put in at the beginning and whether you keep up with familiarizing yourself with the law.

Commentaries are to be left in one’s room so we can become familiar with the Canons unimpeded and in raw form (you should be reading commentaries at home, in advance of the class). This is so that you can be at ease when you open the Code, and look at the meaning of the words. The words in their context are most important for the meaning of the law. In theory it is supposed to be self-explanatory, and for a great part the Legislator succeeded at this – we know if it were absolutely true then we would not need so much study of the law, but that’s life. Moreover, one downfall people have with the law is forgetting to look for the obvious meaning of the words. Sometimes even canonists miss what is right in front of their faces arguing about what they think the law says, but failing to really LOOK at IT, and READ the law as it is.

By PREPARING for CLASS I mean Read the Canons, Read the Commentary on the Canons, and Read the Pastoral Companion for that day in order to be ready to discuss, answer and ask questions. The Sweeney book needs to be finished by the end of the semester and will be required reading for the final.
25 Sessions:

August  

MON 25  Introduction

WED 27  History of Canon Law/Revision and Structure of Code
Prepare: Familiarize oneself with outline found on pp. vii-xv and learn the seven books of the Code
Sacrae Disciplinae Leges pp. xxvii-xxxii
Preface to the Latin Edition pp. xxxiii-xlili

September  

MON 1  LABOR DAY HOLIDAY (NO CLASS)

WED 3  General Norms
Prepare: Canons 1-84; 94-203
The Pastoral Companion 1-21 (hereafter PC)

MON 8  General Norms (cont’d)

WED 10  The Power of Governance and Dispensations
Prepare:  Cc. 129-144, 85-93
PC pp. 21-37

MON 15  The Obligations and Rights of the Christian Faithful
Prepare:  Cc. 204-231

WED 17  Liturgical and Sacramental Law
Prepare:  Cc. 2; 834-841; 843; 846; 848

MON 22  Baptism
Prepare:  Cc. 206; 842; 845; 847; 849-878
PC Chapter II

WED 24  Confirmation
Prepare:  Cc. 879-896
PC Chapter III

MON 29  The Holy Eucharist
Prepare:  Cc. 897-944
PC Chapter IV (minus pp. 117-122 which is for next time)
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>WED 1</td>
<td>BUFFER DAY – Will Lecture on unfinished material</td>
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<td>MON 6</td>
<td>CONTINGENCY DAY</td>
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<td>WED 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON 13</td>
<td>CANON LAW SOCIETY of AMERICA CONFERENCE (ST. LOUIS)</td>
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<td>WED 15</td>
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| MON 20 | Mass Intentions and Stipends  
Prepare: Cc. 945-958  
PC Chapter IV, pp. 117-122 |
| WED 22 | Penance and Sanctions  
Prepare: Cc. 959-997  
PC Chapter V |
| MON 27 | Anointing of the Sick  
Prepare: Cc. 847, 998-1007  
PC Chapter VI |
| WED 29 | Ecumenical Issues/Sui iuris Churches  
Prepare: Canon 844  
PC Chapter XV |
| November | MON 3 | Other Acts of Divine Worship/Sacred Places and Sacred Times  
Prepare: PC XIII & XIV and Canons Cited in the text |
| WED 5 | Special Session: ***The CURIOUS WORLD of RELIGIOUS LAW***  
With guest  
*Sr. Rita Hickey of the Poor Clairs of New Orleans*  
Prepare: cc. 573-746 of Book II (familiarize yourself with these) |
| MON 10 | Holy Orders/Incardination  
Prepare: Cc. 1008-1054; 290-293  
PC VII Start |
| WED 12 | Rights and Obligations of Clerics  
Prepare: Cc. 273-289  
PC VII Finish |
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<td>MON 17</td>
<td>BUFFER DAY – Will Lecture on unfinished material</td>
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<td>WED 19</td>
<td>Role of the Pastor and Parochial Vicar</td>
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<td>Prepare: Cc. 515-552</td>
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<td>PC XVI</td>
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<td>MON 24</td>
<td>Teaching Office of the Church</td>
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<td>Prepare: Entire Book III of the Code of Canon Law</td>
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<td>WED 26</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS</td>
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<td>December MON 1</td>
<td>Temporal Goods</td>
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<td>Prepare: Entire Book V of Code of Canon Law (it’s rather short)</td>
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<td>WED 3</td>
<td>Diocesan Structure/National and International Structure of the Church</td>
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<td>Prepare: Cc. 368-411; 460-514; 553-572/Cc. 431-459; 330-367 PC Appendices II &amp; III</td>
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This calendar is tentative and may change based upon time constraints and student needs. You will notice that there are “buffer days” built into the calendar to attempt to catch up on the copious material that we expect to cover.
Extended Bibliography


The Code of Canon Law, A Text and Commentary, ed. James Coriden et al., New York: Paulist Press, 1985. *(This is the OLD American Commentary, published immediately after the code came out)*


[Citations marked with asterisks are available in electronic format, specifically Kindle Books.]