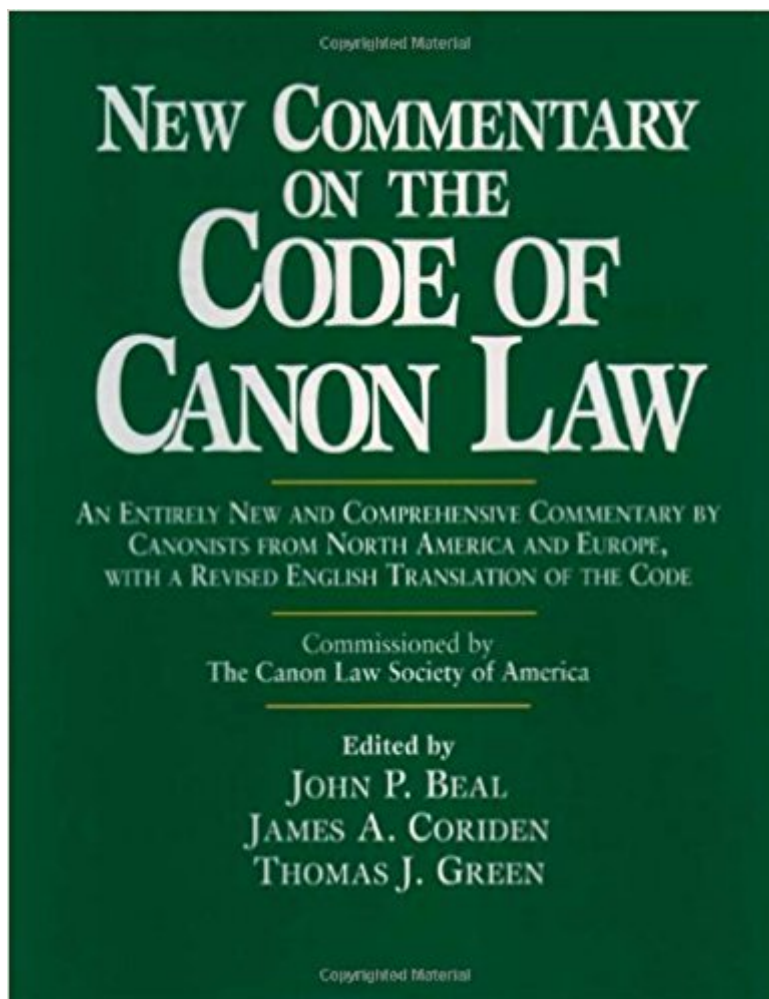


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# New Commentary On The Code Of Canon Law



## Synopsis

An entirely new and comprehensive commentary by canon lawyers from North America and Europe, with a revised English translation of the Code. Reflects the enormous developments in canon law since the publication of the original commentary.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Clearly an invaluable tool. -- The Jurist  
Invaluable to understanding any number of Church issues.  
This volume is an essential reference work. -- Liturgical Ministry  
The commentary is not so much  
valuable as indispensable. -- Ecclesiastical Law Journal  
This commentary should be in the library of  
every major religious institute in the English-speaking world. -- Review for Religious  
Well-bound,  
beautifully produced, and easy to consult. --Theological Studies

Book exceeded my expectations and has proven useful in class. I expect the book to be a valuable resource in the future.

it is helpful in my ministerial work. A Great Resource. Thank you.

excellent

This commentary is extremely valuable as a resource.

The Canons, as legal rules in the Church, evolved through theology, and as such they must continue to evolve from the growing faith and experience of the Church. In the forewords of this book, Ladislav M. Orsy, SJ gives an exposition on "Theology and Canon Law" and Frederick R. McManus gives us "A Canonical Overview of Canon Law" since 1983. These two works by universally respected canonist-professors, justify purchasing this book. They are timeless works to read and reread, without even opening the other eighteen hundred pages. Pope John Paul II, in his Papal Allocutions to the Roman Rota, has emphasized repeatedly that "In effect, juridical-canonical work is pastoral by its very nature." In 1985, The Canon Law Society of America produced the first Commentary on the current Code of Canon Law promulgated in 1983. This was an extremely brave undertaking for any group. Nothing went before and the responsibility of producing such a maiden work was huge. That first edition became an indispensable tool to canonists universally. It provoked thought and discussion beyond any expectation. This is not a second edition. It is a whole new work with mostly new authors. In the spirit of the instruction of Pope John Paul II, this Commentary brings a veritable treasure trove of priceless experience and thought. The many contributors to this Commentary include university professors, Tribunal professionals, administrators of religious institutes, and parish priests. In the years since the 1983 Code was promulgated, there has certainly been change. There have been many documents and official interpretations. The Pontifical Council on the Interpretation of Legislative Texts has issued dozens of authoritative interpretations of the canons. There have been numerous decisions by ecclesial Tribunals all over the world, which have contributed to the meaning of particular canons. In addition there were such important documents as the 1988 Apostolic Constitution on the Roman Curia; the 1990 Ritual for the Celebration of Marriage; the 1993 Directory on Ecumenism; the 1996 Apostolic Constitution on Papal Elections; the 1998 *Motu Proprio* on Episcopal Conferences; and the 1990 Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches. In addition to their consideration of these new documents and decisions, the contributors here bring many varied, lived experiences. And the life experiences of some of these authors is awesome. Two of the authors, also contributors to the first Commentary, were Professors James H. Provost and Bertram F. Griffin. Both of these men were renowned canonists and their contributions are the last great works we have from these men before their deaths. Their work here proves how greatly they are missed. Contributor Lawrence G. Wrenn has long been an expert on American Catholic jurisprudential thought on marriage annulment. As usual, he excels here. On the other end of the spectrum, this Commentary shows the depth of some new canonists. Barbara Anne Cusack, Diane L. Barr, John M. Huels, OSM, Rose M. McDermott, SSJ, Robert Geisinger, SJ, and Craig A. Cox, among many others, show that there is still much coming to provoke both thought and

canonical action in the Church. The format of this book has each contributor presenting a canon, the state of related issue, and then, his or her own view in the ongoing debates. A commentary is not an authoritative text in the way the Pope is infalible. It is never meant to be. A reader of this type of text is of such a caliber intellectually that any explanation in a vacuum would make the work useless, even insulting. The intended reader is the challenged reader. Challenged to read, to think and to act, with the truest sense of justice, and on the most pastoral path of Christianity.

This is an important book. Please, on behalf of so many people, we appeal to the Canon Law Society, we want this New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law and the Code of Canon Law on kindle (e-book). May God continue to guide you!

The fundamental purpose of canon law is the salvation of souls. It is therefore inherently pastoral in nature. It is a means of ordering the Catholic community and seeing that justice is done in that community. The new Commentary does an admirable job of presenting the most accurate English translation of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, as well as providing commentary on that Code that reflects accurately the pastoral nature of Church law. Beyond this, the commentary is very practical in its approach. The articles in the Commentary are written by the leading canonists in America. These commentators are exemplars of real faithfulness to the Church, as well as writing from extensive knowledge of their topics. As a practical resource for ministry in the Catholic Church, you will find nothing better at present.

It took me a while to figure out what this Commentary is all about. For one, I am not a catholic and secondly, I did not even know there is such thing as canon law. My curiosity compelled me to research and read more about the topic. In my profession as a foreign medical doctor, I have been trained to search for the "why's" and "how's" of every given thing. The commentary gave me not only a path to follow but ways to understand this so-called canon law, the absolute purpose of which according to its last law is "the salvation of souls". The commentary is very well written in a style and manner that reflects the author(s) intimate knowledge of the complexities of human life and the god that wants to save it. It is not always easy to find books (or commentaries for that matter) that can help one to understand issues, topics and events that are alien in one's mind and faith. The authors have successfully presented opinions and interpretations based on their obvious love and respect for the church they belong and the god they believe. If all laws are approached that way, perhaps not only souls but also lives will be saved as well. My compliments to the writers.

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