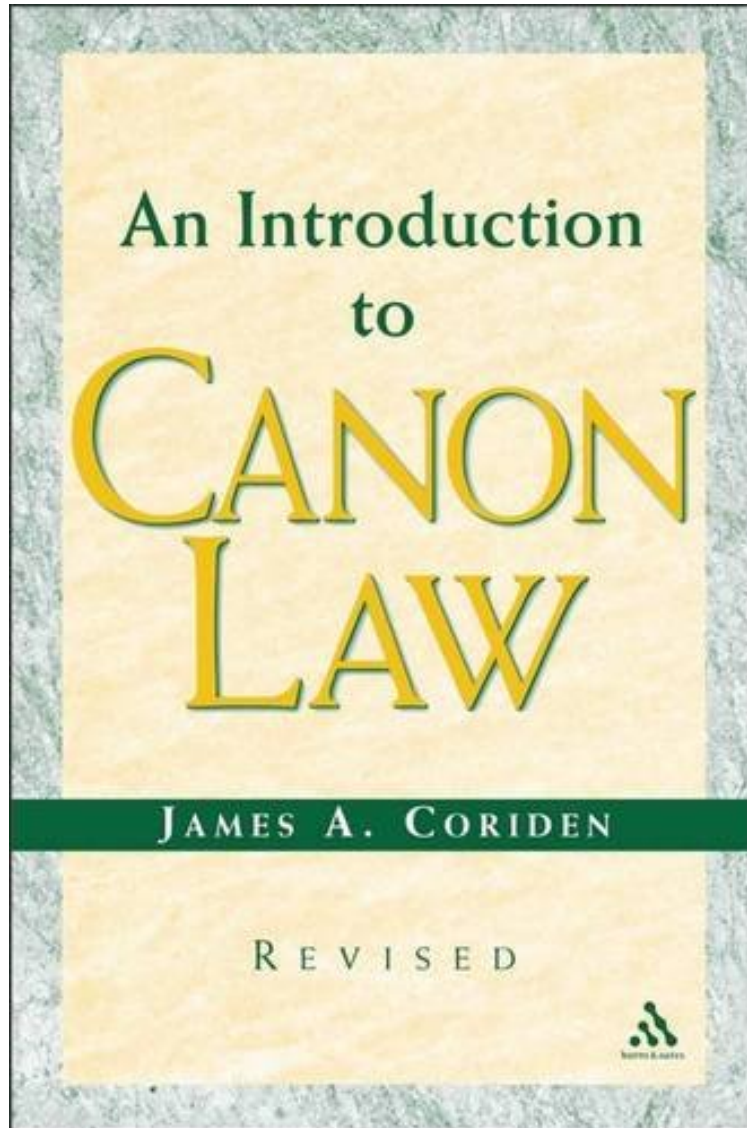


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Introduction to Canon Law Revised Edition

James A. Coriden

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James A. Coriden : Introduction to Canon Law Revised Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Introduction to Canon Law Revised Edition:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Practical and balancedBy Reasonable ReviewerThere are two audiences that I could imagine for this book, the lay member of the Church who is interested in Canon Law and the seminary crew. The book straddles both of those worlds well.Dr. Coriden hits the basic, enduring principles and uses tractable arguments and logical examples to make the point, but he does not get into excessive detail.The seminary

crowd will no doubt eventually want to dig deeper, but the Introduction will serve nicely as a foundation and framework for more detailed study. In service, Rich12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. An excellent introduction to canon law By Hedgehog Coriden is an excellent teacher. He writes directly and succinctly. When I first studied canon law in the mid-90's, I made use of an earlier edition, but this updated version reads very nicely. I had given consideration to using it in a canon law course that I am teaching. This textbook is not a canon by canon expository, although it does, at least cursorily, follow the schema of the 1983 Code of Canon Law. It is thematic in its approach, with more attention given to those elements of ecclesiastical law that are applicable to everyone, i.e., rights and duties, and elaborates nicely on the three munera of teaching, governing, and sanctifying, with a useful overview of temporal goods, general norms, sanctions/penal law, and procedural law. I would recommend this Introduction to anyone who wants to examine the Church's legal tradition as it applies to today's world. 16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. A Very Useful and Basically Balanced Introduction to Canon Law By Sacerdos Atque Discipulus This is a very concise and helpful introduction to Canon Law. It is not easy to find many introductory books in English. This is probably, as far as American publications go, the best one out there. It is an easy read and it would also be worth while to keep this book on one's shelf for reference. Considering the depth of the Code of Canon Law, Father Coriden was always to the point and quite balanced. Here and there you can perceive some of the ecclesiastical laws or matters that he takes issue with as well as a little bit of extra emphasis on the sections of the Code that deal with a subject that he is quite interested in: the various rights of the faithful. He has another book on this subject and is intent on emphasizing and writing about what he terms a "bill of rights" for the baptized. He also does things such as go out of his way only to refer to priests as "presbyters". But again, for a handy introduction to Canon Law, this book has to be one of the best there is out there and I cannot imagine anyone who purchases it not being satisfied.

Catholic canon law changes very slowly, but it constantly adds rules, interpretations, and applications. Some canons are frequently invoked, and others rarely used, quietly pass from memory. In the dozen or so years since this introduction to canon law was first written, there have been many changes and adaptations. This is one reason for a revised edition, although many of the alterations are too subtle to be captured in an introductory treatment. A second reason is to include some of the many new resources, commentaries, and explanations which authorities in the field have made available. Since many have found the original book helpful in beginning their exploration of the church's regulations, a fact which gratifies its author greatly, it is worth improving. Hence many sections have been clarified, expanded, and updated, and some others deleted. In a few places the material is reordered. Seven new case studies have been added. These improvements are a third reason for revision. Context of recent scandal has revealed inadequate applications of canon law. Serious canonical crimes were often treated as personnel problems, calling for repentance, therapy, and reassignment, rather than the investigation and imposition of penalties which the canons prescribe. Would a more careful observance of the traditional canonical system have saved many young people from serious harm and the church from an immense disgrace? The question provides one more incentive to begin to learn about canon law.

About the Author James A. Coriden, who holds an S.T.L. and J.C.D. from the Gregorian University in Rome, and a J.D. from the Catholic University of America, is professor of canon law and dean emeritus of the Washington Theological Union in Washington, DC. A priest ordained for the Diocese of Gary, he is one of the three general editors of the New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law and the author of *An Introduction to Canon Law and The Parish in Catholic Tradition* (Paulist Press).