



## Graduate Diploma in Canonical Practice

### **SPECIALIZATION IN MARRIAGE LAW AND PROCEDURES**

JANUARY 2021 - MAY 2021

The Faculty of Canon Law of Saint Paul University, Ottawa, announces a Graduate Diploma in Canonical Practice (GDGP) with a specialization in Marriage Law and Procedures. To accommodate participants who retain their regular employment, the diploma offers courses both at a distance and on campus.

Typically, persons interested in acquiring university education in canon law over a short period of time already hold a position of responsibility and cannot be excused from their professional obligations for several years or months at a time.

This diploma is intended for those who serve in tribunal ministry, or are preparing for such ministry – particularly as auditors, procurators, advocates, notaries, tribunal directors. The courses study the Church’s substantive and procedural marriage law. The diploma culminates in a seminar on tribunal practice which integrates and complements the preceding courses.

In keeping with the focus of the Faculty of Canon Law, the courses intend to convey both a complete understanding of the canons and their practical application.

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Prospective participants must hold an honours baccalaureate, or provide evidence of an equivalent program, with an average grade of at least “B”. Typically, participants must have 18 credits in theology or religious studies. A basic understanding of canon law is required. The Faculty of Canon Law reserves the right to assess individual applications and stipulate specific prerequisites for a concentration or a course, or to waive one or more prerequisites in view of the candidate’s proven pastoral or professional experience.

## STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

The program consists of 15 credits of university graduate course work.

*Nine credits offered at a distance during  
Winter Session 2021  
(January-April)*

### **DCA 5130W Matrimonial Law (3 cr.)**

Canonical notion of marriage. Marriage preparation. Impediments: in general and specific. Matrimonial consent. Canonical form. Mixed marriages. Marriages celebrated secretly. Effects of marriage. (cc. 1055-1140)

### **DCA 5138W Special Matrimonial Cases and Procedures (1.5 cr.)**

Separation of the spouses with the dissolution of the marriage bond (dissolution of ratified and non-consummated marriages, dissolution in virtue of the Pauline privilege, dissolution in favour of the faith). Separation of the spouses with the bond remaining. Convalidation of marriage. Procedure in presumed death of a spouse. (cc. 1141-1165, 1692-1707)

### **DCA 6114W Procedures II (3 cr.)**

Introduction of a case: the *libellus*, citation and notification of judicial acts. Joinder of the issue. Trial of litigation. Proofs. Incidental cases. Publication of the acts. Conclusion of the case. Discussion of the case. Pronouncements of the judge. Challenge of the sentence: complaint of nullity, appeal. *Res iudicata* and *Restitutio in integrum*. Judicial expenses and gratuitous legal assistance. Execution of the sentence. The documentary process for marriage cases. (cc. 1501-1655, 1678-1691)

### **DCA 6363W Special Problems: Psychology and Matrimonial Consent (1.5 cr.)**

This course is especially designed for canonists and tribunal practitioners. From the standpoint of a Christian anthropology, it considers the psychological aspects of the human person, especially one's capacity to discern the choice of life-long marriage, and to assume its essential obligations.

*Six credits offered at a distance during Spring  
Session 2021  
(April-May)*

### **DCA 5135 Matrimonial Jurisprudence (3 cr.)**

A study of jurisprudence focusing on the grounds of nullity of matrimonial consent, with special focus on the jurisprudence of the Roman Rota.

### **DCA 6321 Seminar on Tribunal Practice (3 cr.)**

Jurisprudence. Practical application: introduction of a marriage nullity case, instruction, conclusion, decision, appeal. Drafting of decrees, advocate's pleas, remarks of the defender of the bond, sentences.

### **DIPLOMA COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS**

To receive the diploma participants must have successfully completed all 15 credits. Adult educational methods will be used to assess knowledge.

### **CREDIT TRANSFERS**

The 15 credits of the Graduate Diploma in Canonical Practice are graduate credits in canon law. They can later be applied to degrees offered at Saint Paul University: Masters in Canon Law (M.C.L.), Licentiate in Canon Law (J.C.L.).

### **MORE INFORMATION**

For more information, please contact:

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