

Faculty of Canon Law  
Saint Paul University

Announcement of New Publication on  
Penal Law

The Faculty of Canon Law of Saint Paul University announces the latest addition to its canon law commentary series: *The Penal Law of the Roman Catholic Church: Substantive Law*, written by Monsignor John A. Renken, full professor and former dean of the Faculty.

This volume is an extensive commentary on canons 1311-1399 (*Book VI*) of the *Code of Canon Law*. The commentary incorporates the 2021 revisions of these canons by Pope Francis in his apostolic constitution *Pascite gregem Dei*, promulgated 23 May 2021 and effective 8 December 2021. It also includes reference to subsequent (revised) legal texts, including:

Pope Francis, apostolic letter *Vos estis lux mundi* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 25 March 2023)  
CDF, Norms on the More Grave Delicts (3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 11 October 2021)  
DDF, Vademecum on Certain Points of Procure in Treating Cases of Sexual Abuse  
of Minors Committed by Clerics (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 5 June 2022)

This book addresses the most up-to-date penal legislation of the Church. It treats the innate right of the Church to coerce Catholics with penal sanctions; the nature of penal laws and penal precepts; the subjects of penal sanctions; penalties (medicinal and expiatory) and other punishments (penal remedies and penances); the application and remission of penalties; and the penalties for individual delicts established by papal law for the Latin Church.

It makes reference to related canons in the original Book VI of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*; the 1917 *Code of Canon Law*; and the 1990 *Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches* (as revised by Pope Francis in his apostolic letter *Vocare peccatores*, promulgated 19 March 2023 and effective 29 June 2023).

This work contains several appendices, most of which are official contemporary documents related to penal law. A quite extensive bibliography invites further research and reflection on the penal law, past and present.

The proceeds from the sale of this book provide assistance to students studying canon law at Saint Paul University.

*THE PENAL LAW OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH:  
SUBSTANTIVE LAW*

Monsignor John A. Renken

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