

CANON LAW ON SACRAMENTS
AN AFRICAN HANDBOOK

STANSLAUS MUYEBE

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For my mother and for my two brothers [Alex and Ben]

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAS	Acta Apostolicae Sedis, Rome, 1909-
Can.	Canon
CDF	Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith
CLD	Canon Law Digest
CLSA	Canon Law Society of America
CLSA 1983 Commentary	Coriden, J., et al, eds. <i>The Code of Canon Law: A Text and Commentary</i> , NewYork/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1983.
CLSA 2000 Commentary	Coriden, J., et al, eds., <i>New Commentary on the Code Of Canon Law</i> , New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 2000.
<i>Code Commission</i>	Pontifical Commission for the Authentic Interpretation of the Code
DocuLiturgy	<i>Documents on the Liturgy 1963-1979, Papal and Curial Texts</i> , Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1982.
<i>EcuDirectory</i> 1967	Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, <i>Ecumenical Directory</i> , part 1, May 14, 1967, CLD 6,716-734
<i>EcuDirectory</i> 1993	Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, <i>Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism</i> , Washington: USCC, 1993.
GICI	Sacred Congregation of Divine Worship, <i>General Introduction to [the Rite of] Christian Initiation</i> , in DocuLiturgy, 301

<i>GIRM</i>	Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship, <i>General Instructions of the Roman Missal</i> , Trans. ICEL, Washington: USCC, 1977
Instruction on Certain Questions	Instructions On Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Lay Faithful in the Ministry Of Priests, in <i>Origins</i> 27[1997-1998]397, 399-409.
Eucharisticum Mysterium,	SCR, Eucharisticum Mysterium, May 25, 1967, AAS 59[1967] 539-573
PL	J.P. Migne, <i>Patrologiae Cursus Completus</i> , Series Latina, Paris, 1844-1853.
Pastoral Care of the Sick	<i>Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum</i> , Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1983
<i>Rite for Baptism for Children</i>	Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship, <i>Rite for Baptism of Children</i> , in <i>DocuLiturgy</i> , 295
RCIA	Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship, <i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i> , in <i>DocuLiturgy</i> , 301
<i>Rite of Confirmation</i>	Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship, <i>Rite of Confirmation</i> , in <i>DocuLiturgy</i> , 305
SC	Second Vatican Council, Constitution, <i>Sacrosanctum Concilium</i>
<i>SCDW</i>	Sacred Congregation of Divine Worship
SCR	Sacred Congregation of Rites

SCS	Sacred Congregation of Sacraments
SPCU	Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity
UR	Second Vatican Council, Decree, <i>Unitatis Redintegratio</i>

INTRODUCTION

This book is intended for students who are doing undergraduate studies in theology/canon law. It introduces a reader to the basics on canon law on sacraments. The book covers only five sacraments: three sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation and Eucharist) and two sacraments of healing (penance and anointing). The book is therefore made up of five chapters.

Each chapter is presented in a note-format so as to enable a reader to understand the material in few minutes. The book also uses a question-answer format. When describing each sacrament, each chapter offers questions and answers on the following issues:

- ❑ Questions regarding the MINISTER of the sacrament: In the Catholic Church, who is allowed to serve as a minister for this sacrament?
- ❑ Questions regarding the RECIPIENTS of the sacrament: In the Catholic Church, who is allowed to receive this sacrament?
- ❑ Questions regarding the MATTER/FORM: What matter/form are used when celebrating this sacrament?
- ❑ Questions regarding the appropriate PLACE/TIME: What is the appropriate time/place for celebrating the sacrament?
- ❑ Questions regarding the appropriate SUBJECTIVE DISPOSITION: What interior disposition is required when celebrating this sacrament?
- ❑ Selected materials for further reading

WHY USE A QUESTION-ANSWER FORMAT?

The book advocates a contextual reading of canon law on sacraments. The text on canon law on sacraments should be read and evaluated in the light of the questions that people ask when they are administering and celebrating the sacraments. In the question-answer format, the question element highlights the pastoral questions related to the celebration of sacraments. The answer element underlines the tools

that canon law proposes for addressing such questions. The question-answer format then encourages a reader to ask two questions when reading canon law on sacraments: What are the pastoral problems that canon law seeks to respond to? What are the canonical tools that need to be taken into consideration when solving a particular pastoral problem? How relevant and adequate are these canonical tools in responding to the pastoral problems?

Stanslaus Muyebe