

Canon

Law

Code

Life

# Canon Law: A Code for Life

## Part 2



# Canon Law

- **1. Canon Law is**
  - A group of laws established by the Apostles and their successors to govern the Church and the life of Believer
- **2. Goal of Canon Law is**
  - Remind the believer in Christ that he should live his life on earth according to the calling of Christ
- **3. Types of Canon Law**
  - General/Universal
    - Laws derived from the Holy Bible & Ecumenical Councils
    - Recognized by all & Binding on all
  - Local
    - Laws developed in response to a specific situation at a specific time
    - Recognized by some & not binding on all

# Some Facts...

- **Nicaea**

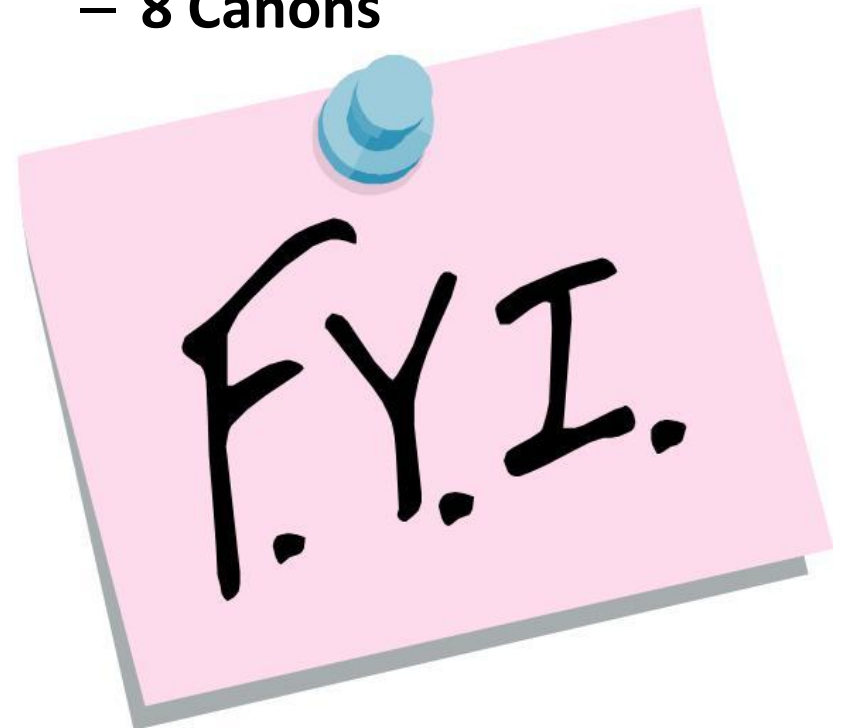
- 325AD
- 318 Bishops
- 20 Canons

- **Constantinople**

- 381 AD
- 150 Bishops
- 7 Canons

- **Ephesus**

- 431 AD
- 200 Bishops
- 8 Canons



# Canon Law

- **4. Sources of Canon Law**

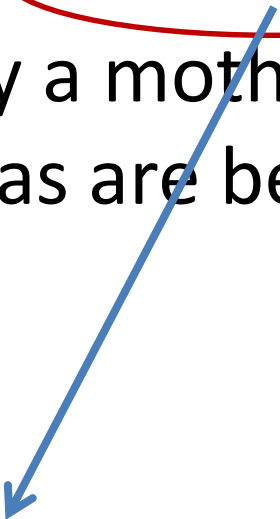
- The Holy Bible
- The Ecumenical Councils
  - Nicaea, Constantinople & Ephesus
- The Local Councils
- The Apostles & The Apostolic Fathers
- The Patriarchs & Saints

- **5. Models of Authority**

- Roman Catholic
  - Authority in the Person of the Pope
- Protestant
  - No Centralized authority; every person is an authority
- Orthodox
  - Ecumenical Councils, Holy Synod & the Canons

- ***Canon 2 of the Great & Holy Ecumenical Council NICAEA***
- FORASMUCH as, ... many things have been done contrary ...that men just converted from heathenism to the faith, and who have been instructed but a little while, are straightway brought to the spiritual laver, and as soon as they have been baptized, are advanced to the episcopate or the presbyterate, it has seemed right to us that for the time to come no such thing shall be done. For to the catechumen himself there is need of time and of a longer trial after baptism. For the saying is clear, Not a novice; lest, being lifted up with pride, he fall into condemnation and the snare of the devil. But if, as time goes on, any sensual sin should be found out about the person, and he should be convicted by two or three witnesses, let him cease from the clerical office. And whoso shall transgress these [enactments] will imperil his own clerical position, as a person who presumes to disobey the great Synod.

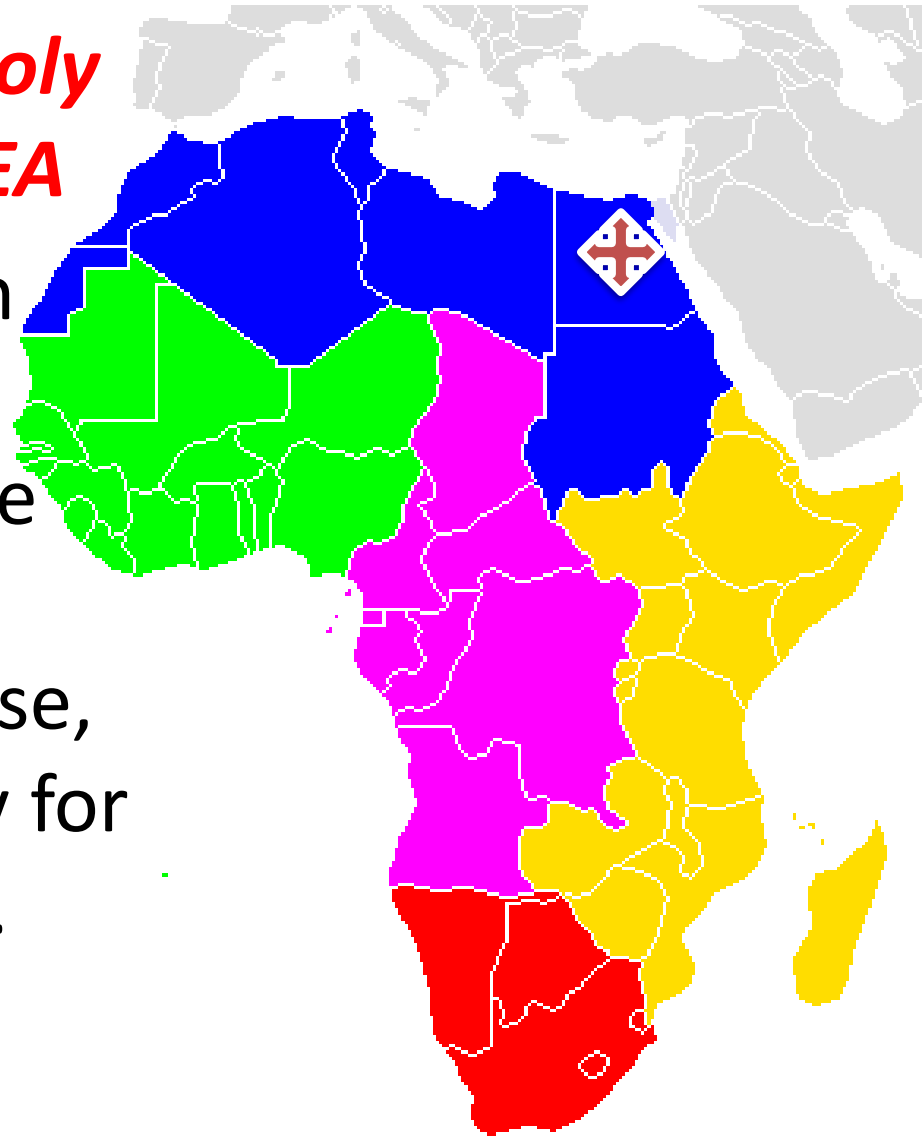
- ***Canon 3 of the Great & Holy Ecumenical Council NICAEA***
- The great Synod has stringently forbidden any bishop, presbyter, deacon, or any one of the clergy whatever, to have a *subintroducta* dwelling with him, except only a mother, or sister, or aunt, or such persons only as are beyond all suspicion.



A woman (Virgin or Widow) living with a celibate clergyman, both having vowed to live in self control

- ***Canon 5 of the Great & Holy Ecumenical Council  
NICAEA***
- Concerning those, whether of the clergy or of the laity, who have been excommunicated in the several provinces, let the provision of the canon be observed by the bishops which provides that persons cast out by some be not readmitted by others.... And, that so this matter may have due investigation, it is decreed that in every province, synods shall be held twice a year, in order that when all the bishops of the province are assembled together, such questions may, by them, be thoroughly examined... And let these synods be held, one before Lent, ... and let the second be held about autumn.

- ***Canon 6 of the Great & Holy Ecumenical Council NICAEA***
- Let the ancient customs in Egypt, Libya, and Pentapolis prevail, that the Bishop of Alexandria have jurisdiction in all these, since the like is customary for the Bishop of Rome also...

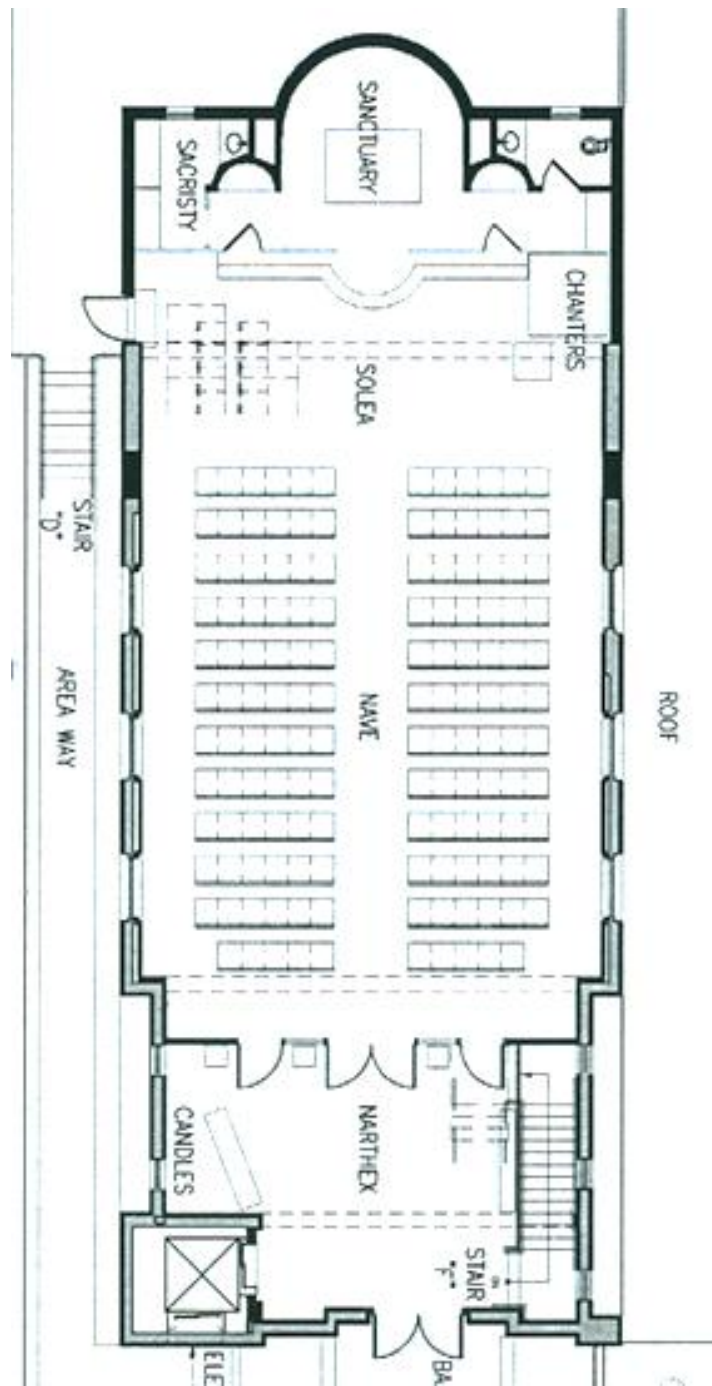




- ***Canon 7 of the Great & Holy Ecumenical Council NICAEA***
- Since custom and ancient tradition have prevailed that the Bishop of Ælia [*i.e.*, Jerusalem] should be honored, let him, because of its due dignity to the Metropolis, have the next place of honor.



- ***Canon 11 of the Great & Holy Ecumenical Council  
NICAEA***
- About those who have renounced the faith during the tyranny of Licinius without having been forced, without having lost their property, without having faced dangers or anything of the sort, it has been decided by the holy council that although not being worthy of mercy, nonetheless, we will make use of gentleness in their cases. Consequently, those among them who were baptized and manifest a real repentance must remain three years among “hearers” and during seven years, they must pray prostrate and then during two years they will participate in the prayers of the people but without participating in the offering.



**Nave**  
**Attend w/o Communion**

**Nave**  
**Prostrated**

**Narthex**  
**Hearers**

**Outside - WEEPERS**

- ***Canon 18 of the Great & Holy Ecumenical Council NICAEA***
- It has come to the knowledge of the holy and great Synod, that, in some districts and cities, the deacons administer the Eucharist to the presbyters, whereas neither canon nor custom permits that they who have no right to offer should give the Body of Christ to them that do offer. And this also has been made known, that certain deacons now touch the Eucharist even before the bishops. Let all such practices be utterly done away, and let the deacons remain within their own bounds, knowing that they are the ministers of the bishop and the inferiors of the presbyters. Let them receive the Eucharist according to their order, after the presbyters, and let either the bishop or the presbyter administer to them. Furthermore, let not the deacons sit among the presbyters, for that is contrary to canon and order. And if, after this decree, any one shall refuse to obey, let him be deposed from the diaconate.

- ***Canon 11 of Neo-Caesarea – 352AD***
- Let not a presbyter be ordained before he is thirty years of age, even though he be in all respects a worthy man, but let him be made to wait. For our Lord Jesus Christ was baptized and began to teach in his thirtieth year.







- ***Canon 46 of Neo- Caesarea – 352AD***

The passions of the Martyrs may be read when their anniversary days are celebrated.



- ***Canon 72 of Neo-Caesarea  
352AD***
- Item, it seemed good that whenever there were not found reliable witnesses who could testify that without any doubt they were baptized and when the children themselves were not, on account of their tender age, able to answer concerning the giving of the sacraments to them, all such children should be baptized without scruple, lest a hesitation should deprive them of the cleansing of the sacraments.



- ***Paragraph 11 Apostolic Constitutions***
- You fathers, educate your children in the Lord, bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and teach them such trades as are agreeable and suitable to the word, lest they by such opportunity become extravagant, and continue without punishment from their parents, and so get relaxation before their time, and go astray from that which is good. Wherefore be not afraid to reprove them, and to teach them wisdom with severity. For your corrections will not kill them, but rather preserve them.



## Section 5 of Book 7 *Apostolic Constitutions*

*Glory be to God in the highest, and upon earth peace, good-will among men.* We praise You, we sing hymns to You, we bless You; we glorify You, we worship You by Your great High Priest; You who art the true God, who art the **One Unbegotten, the only inaccessible Being.** For Your great glory, O Lord and heavenly King, O God the Father Almighty, O Lord God, the Father of Christ the immaculate Lamb, who takes away the sin of the world, receive our prayer, You that sits upon the cherubim. For You alone are holy, You alone are the Lord Jesus, the Christ of the God of all created nature, and our King, by whom glory, honor, and worship be to You.

## The Agpeya Prayers

- Let us praise with the angels, saying, “Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and good will toward men.”
- We praise You. We bless You. We serve You. We worship You. We confess You. We glorify You. We give thanks to You for Your great glory, O Lord, King of heaven, God the Father, the *Almighty*; O Lord, the one and **Only-Begotten Son**, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. You, Who takes away the sin of the world, receive our prayers unto You. Who sits at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. You only are the Holy; You only are the Most High, Lord, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit; glory to God the Father. Amen.
- Every day I will bless You, and praise Your holy name forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
- From the night season my soul awakes early unto You, O my God, for Your precepts are a light upon the earth. I was meditating on Your ways, for You have become a helper unto me. In the morning You shall hear my voice. Early I will stand before You. and You shall see me.

- ***Canon #14 St. Timothy Patriarch of Alexandria***
- If anyone having no control of himself lays violent hands on himself or hurls himself to destruction, whether an offering ought to be made for him or not?
- Answer: The Clergyman ought to discern in his behalf whether he was actually and truly out of his mind when he did it. For oftentimes those who are interested in the victim and want to have him accorded an offering and a prayer in his behalf will deliberately lie and assert that he had no control of himself. Sometimes, however, he did it as a result of influence exercised by other men, or somehow otherwise as a result of paying too little attention to circumstances, and no offering ought to be made in his behalf. It is incumbent, therefore, upon the Clergyman in any case to investigate the matter accurately, in order to avoid incurring judgment.

- ***Canon #16 St. Timothy Patriarch of Alexandria***
- If anyone fasting with a view to communion, while washing his mouth, or in the bath, has swallowed water involuntarily, ought he to communed.
- Answer: Yes. Since Satan has found an occasion whereby to prevent him from partaking of communion, he will keep on doing this more frequently.



- ***Canon # 6- Apostolic Canons***

- Let not a bishop, presbyter, or deacon undertake worldly business. Otherwise, let him be deposed.

- ***Canon # 42 -Apostolic Canons***

- If a bishop, or presbyter, or deacon is addicted to dice or drinking, let him either give it over or be deposed.

- St. Gregory the Theologian

"How absurd is it not that one is not permitted to be ignorant of any law of the Romans, not even if he be exceedingly boorish and unlearned, whereas, on the other hand, Christians may be ignorant of salvation and of the principles and canons of salvation."

