

A PRESENTATION OF THE GRATIANUS SERIES

A REQUEST from *Ius Ecclesiae* to make a presentation of the *Gratianus Series* is at the same time flattering and challenging. Flattering because we all like to write about endeavors to which we are committed. Challenging because it is always very risky to write, without partiality, about our own activities. Nevertheless, being the institutional memory of this venture, it is somehow reasonable for me to write about it. I will try to present facts and avoid any kind of appreciation or evaluation.

Let us start by the Publisher: Wilson & Lafleur. It has commemorated its first centennial in 2009 under the motto *Une tradition d'excellence / A Tradition of Excellence*. It is a leading legal publishing house in Québec, and in 1990 it rose to the challenge of getting into an unknown field and started publishing canon law books in French and in English. Since then, Wilson & Lafleur has acquired an international reputation in the domain of canon law.

The *Code de droit canonique, bilingue et annoté* opened the path of this new venture undertaken by Wilson & Lafleur twenty years ago. Dean Jean Thorn, of the Faculty of Canon Law of Saint Paul University, Prof. Michel Thériault, Editor of *Studia canonica* and Secretary of the same Faculty, and the undersigned took the responsibility, as coeditors, of adapting and updating the French translation, prepared by a competent team of French canonists and theologians, of the original Spanish edition published by the *Instituto Martín de Azpilcueta*. We then completed the *Code of Canon Law Annotated* in 1993. Both French and English versions of the Code achieved great success, with numerous reprints and new editions. That convinced the management of Wilson & Lafleur that canon law was a field with a promising future.

In 1999, encouraged by this fruitful experience, Prof. Thériault and the undersigned — our colleague Jean Thorn had passed away in 1996 — proposed to Mr. Claude Wilson, CEO of Wilson & Lafleur, who accepted without hesitation, to launch a series of canon law books. The choice of a Latin name: *Gratianus*, rapidly won unanimous support. This was a modest way to pay homage to this great medieval canonist. The selection of the logo was the fruit of the cooperation between the cofounders and Mr. Denis Martineau, a graphic artist: since green is the academic color of canon law, the emerald

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represents it very well. The name is preceded by “Collection” and followed by “Series,” a succinct manner to underline the fact that the publications are both in French and in English.

The second edition of the *Code de droit canonique, bilingue et annoté* was the first book published under the new seal in 1999; it was followed by handbooks in English and many other works. Unfortunately, Prof. Thériault died in 2000. The series was just starting and at that time we were involved in the great project of publishing the *Exegetical Commentary on the Code of Canon Law*. It appeared in 2004, after a sustained work accomplished by a competent team of translators handpicked by Fr. James Socias, and a dedicated team of canonists under the guidance of Fr. Patrick Lagges, the two pillars helping the undersigned to accomplish the exploit of this very elegant work in eight books, published as a co-edition with Midwest Theological Forum.

In the summer of 2007, as the *Gratianus* Series was enlarging, it was considered appropriate, in agreement with Mr. Wilson and several of the most regular collaborators, to constitute an *Editorial Board / Conseil éditorial*. I sent invitations to a large roster of canonists; most of them accepted the invitation. Presently twenty-six canonists, from some ten countries, are the members of the Board. I did also invite six of them to join me in an *Editorial Committee / Comité éditorial* in order to facilitate more frequent and fast consultations. We take advantage of canon law national and international conferences to call meetings of the Editorial Board. This gives us the chance to share ideas among the members, to evaluate the progress of the *Gratianus* Series, to study forthcoming publication projects and to open new horizons for this service to the English- and French-speaking canonists. Of course the number of members of the Board varies from one meeting to the other. We have met in Québec City, Niagara Falls, Rome, Venice, and Buffalo.

The section *Annotated Legislative Texts / Textes législatifs annotés* includes the pioneer’s books in the *Gratianus* Series. The *Exegetical Commentary* could be considered as an admiral ship. Nevertheless, the second edition of the *Code of Canon Law Annotated* also appeared in 2004. The undersigned and Ms. Hélène Aubé edited it, with the valuable collaboration of Msgr. Juan Ignacio Arrieta as well as other American and Canadian canonists. Partially co-edited with Midwest Theological Forum, both publishers decided to make a large printing of the book. The *Code de droit canonique, bilingue et annoté* had a third edition in 2007. It is enriched with concordances with the *Code des canons des Églises orientales*. Besides Ms. Aubé, Msgrs. Arrieta and Dominique Le Tourneau also contributed to this new edition. Each new edition is abundantly updated with references to and quotations from juridical and magisterial documents. This third edition provides the buyer with an interesting feature, as the paper version of the book comes with a free e-book

version containing an effective research engine, which can be downloaded via the *Gratianus* Web page. In 2009 a second revised and enriched printing was required, as the edition was out of print. Other less sophisticated books have also been published under the *annotated legislative texts* banner. They aimed at facilitating the knowledge and application of canon law to non-canonists. A good example of this is the *Guide canonique et pastoral au service des paroisses*, with a Québec edition (2004) and a Canadian edition (2006), both published in English as well: *Canonical and Pastoral Guide for Parishes* (2005 and 2006). The other books in the same perspective are *Les archives ecclésiastiques, diocésaines et paroissiales* (2009), and *Le cimetière paroissial catholique au Québec — Guide de gestion* (2010).

Very soon, authors proposed books to be included in the section *Handbooks / Manuels*. The two first ones were English translations of books written by Prof. Martín de Agar (*Handbook of Canon Law*, 1999, with several reprints and a second edition in 2007) and Prof. Arrieta (*Governance Structures Within the Catholic Church*, 2000, with several reprints and a French updated edition under way). Also under this banner were published some fundamental works by Prof. Javier Hervada: *Critical Introduction to Natural Law* (2006), *Introduction to the Study of Canon Law* (2007), and *What is Law? The Modern Response of Juridical Realism. An Introduction to Law* (2009); by Prof. Carlos José Errázuriz M.: *Justice in the Church. A Fundamental Theory of Canon Law* (2009); by Prof. Brian E. Ferme: *Introduction to the History of the Sources of Canon Law: The Ancient Law up to the Decretum of Gratian I* (2007); or by Cardinal Lluís Martínez Sistach: *Associations of Christ Faithful* (2008). These translations built bridges between Italian or Spanish canonists and the Anglo-Saxon world. Of course, we also published original manuscripts written in Molière's language, like *Droit canonique des biens* (2008) by Prof. Jean-Pierre Schoupe, or *Manuel de droit canonique* (2011) by Msgr. Le Tourneau (which will be the first handbook also offered as an iPad App), as well as those written in Shakespeare's language, like *The Pastoral Companion* (2009), and *Liturgy and Law* (2006), both by Prof. John M. Huels, with a French translation of this last one published in 2007. *Advocacy Vademecum* (2006), edited by Ms. Patricia M. Dugan, put together a series of practical papers written by several authors in order to facilitate the work of canon lawyers; a French version is forthcoming.

Among the early sections in the *Gratianus* Series is *Research Tools / Instruments de recherche*. Prof. Edward Peters has produced two of them, the first succinct one being *Tabula congruentiæ inter Codicem iuris canonici et versiones anteriores canonum* (2000), with an Introduction in five languages, and the most comprehensive one, *Incrementa in Progressu 1983 Codicis Iuris Canonici* (2005), also with a multilingual introduction. Jean LeBlanc is the author of two valuable dictionaries: *Dictionnaire biographique des évêques catholiques du*

Canada (1650-2002) (2002), and *Dictionnaire biographique des cardinaux du XIX^e siècle* (2007).

The conference on penal process and protection of rights held at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross paved the way for a new section: *Proceedings / Actes de congrès*. The papers presented at the conference were translated and edited under the skillful direction of Ms. Dugan. This first volume of the *Proceedings* section was published under the title *Penal Process and the Protections of Rights in Canon Law* (2005). A French translation, *Procédure pénale et la protection des droits dans la législation canonique*, appeared in 2008. Other proceedings from conferences at Santa Croce followed, like *Symposium on Dignitas connubi* (2006), edited by Ms. Dugan and Prof. Luis Navarro; *Towards Future Developments in Penal Law: U.S. Theory and Practice* (2009), also edited by Ms. Dugan; *Studies on the Prelature of Opus Dei* (2009), translated and edited by Fr. Paul Hayward; and *Études sur la prélatrice de l'Opus Dei* (2009), translated and edited by Prof. Schouppe. Once more, these proceedings set up bridges between canonists from different linguistic areas, allowing them to benefit from the riches of the conferences and symposia held at Santa Croce.

Monographs / Monographies is an emerging section: it started as we accepted the publication of a rich historical doctoral thesis in a comparative law context, presented by Rev. Dr. Gregory J. Zubacz at Saint Paul University. Originally entitled *The Seal of Confession and Canadian Law* (2009), it was followed by the French edition, *Le secret sacramentel et la législation canadienne* (2010). Two other monographs are forthcoming.

Also up-and-coming is the section *Notebooks / Cahiers* with two titles, until now, in both languages: *The Juridical Mind of Saint Josemaria Escriva* and *La mentalité juridique de saint Josémaria Escriva* (both in 2007), by Prof. Caparros; *Fidèles dans le monde. La sécularité des laïcs chrétiens* (2007), and *Christ's Faithful in the World. The Secular Character of the Laity* (2008), both by Dean Jorge Miras. Other titles are forthcoming in this same section.

But as new authors join the collection and new needs appear, other sections could be added as need be. In some cases authors knock at the door with highly interesting books although not in the realm of canon law. Faced with those proposals, Mr. Wilson manifested his openness once again, like in 1990 when he rose the challenge of the unknown field of canon law, and we have happily published two exceptional books in French, more related with Holy Scripture, namely the Scott Hanh's *Comprendre les Écritures* (2008), which is also offered as an iPad App, and Robert Mercier's *L'Évangile pour que vous croyiez* (2010). As a matter of fact, one of the features of the *Gratianus Series* is to serve the world of canon law through openness to new authors and to the variety of means of presentation of canon law. Taking into consideration other needs, mainly in the field of Evangelization, we cannot ex-

clude the possibility of opening new divisions within *Gratianus* to welcome religious literature.

Obviously, the publication of all those titles would not be possible without the collaboration of a good number of very competent people at different levels of the preparation and production of each book. They all work behind the scenes but their work is essential. It is impossible to name each one but some needs to be named; Mr. Wilson and two of the pillars among his team: Mr. Jean-Noël Burton is the Publishing Coordinator, while Mr. Pierre Couillard is in charge of the Web page, among other tasks; our copy editor, Ms. Johanne Paquette, accomplishes a meticulous work going through the manuscripts to improve the language, avoid typos and have all the accurate references; then the team of Interscript takes care of preparing the final version for printing, and finally Mr. Martineau and his team give to the books the nice look which has become the trademark of the Series.

Let us finish with short practical information: the books are available via Internet at www.gratianus.com, as well as in several Roman bookstores like Ancora, Coletti, Leoniana, Paoline, and the EDUSC bookstore at the University of the Holy Cross.

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