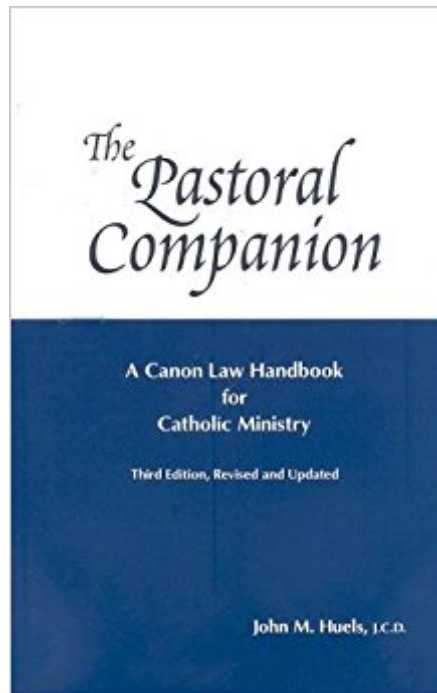




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The Pastoral Companion: A Canon Law Handbook For Catholic Ministry



Synopsis

Book by Huels, John M.

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Customer Reviews

Book by Huels, John M.

Arrived on time and as expected.

A great resource for a Canonist.

The Pastoral Companion Plain but useful, like a pair of sensible shoes There's nothing sexy or exciting about "The Pastoral Companion." It's everything that most Roman Catholic parish workers -- from pastors to pastoral assistants -- might need to answers typical questions involving Canon Law. As might be expected, law involving the sacraments is treated most heavily. But other parish concerns -- the ecumenism, sacramentals, the liturgy of the hours and the role of parish administrators -- are given their share of space. The book is written in sturdy, accessible prose that refers to the canons by number, but without necessarily quoting them. The book also quotes from other helpful Church documents -- the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), documents of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), the Book of Blessings and many others. A handy guide for those who aren't canonists and whose ministry is on the parish level, "The Pastoral

Companion" was assigned as a main reference in a Canon Law class for lay people that I took at a mainstream Catholic seminary in the Northeast.

Intellectually, Fr. Huels is among the leading and most gifted canon lawyers currently living in North America. In this book, Fr Huels applies his canonical genius to the pastoral application of canon law. This book is not so much for the canonist, but for the non-canonist engaged in pastoral ministry. It teaches the basics of canon law, provides a handy glossary of canonical terms, and tells you when you are facing a canonical situation over your head and need to phone a canonist. In particular, the non-Canonist will find Fr. Huels' treatment of marriage law handy. It outlines in what situations a dispensation is necessary, as well as in what circumstances a proposed marriage is invalid. It also provides a handy canonical reference to other common questions that arise around the celebration of the sacraments -- such as who can be a sponsor for baptism and confirmation. I highly recommend this book to non-canonists engaged in pastoral ministry who are seeking a handy reference concerning how canon law applies in common pastoral situations.

This indeed is a tool for the pastors and all in charge in leadership in our churches. Rev. Huels breaks down the doctrine and liturgy, sacraments and explains them obviously from the Canon Law perspective. We live in a times when people are not shy or afraid to ask questions. As priests and spiritual leaders we are obligated to know the answers and explain them well. To have this book on the top of your desk is very handy and helpfull.

This is a very fine book, indeed. Spiritual leaders and priests are obligated to know the answers and explain them well. However, aren't priests and spiritual leaders obligated to not just know and explain the answers, but to live them, model them? May I suggest that the true spiritual leaders do not wear Roman collars. Lay people, who are striving to live the life the Church prescribes are the true spiritual models and leaders. They, not just the clergy, would greatly benefit from this book. We, the laity, are not shy or afraid to ask questions and educate ourselves. Buy this book! It is well worth every penny to all practicing Catholics.

This is actually the third edition of this excellent book. It is now available directly from the publisher.

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