

## Editorial

The Editorial Board of the journal *Scientia Canonica* presents volume 4, number 7, referring to the first half of 2021, with three sessions: articles, jurisprudence of the Tribunal of the Roman Rota and reviews.

In the Articles section, there are three articles. The first one, *Procedural typologies for matrimonial nullity: the news after the MIDI*, is a research by Prof. João Pedro Serra Mendes Bizarro, professor at the Portuguese Catholic University (UCP) and member of the Council of the Higher Institute of Canon Law in Lisbon. The article deals with the reform of matrimonial procedural law, promulgated by Pope Francis, which has brought speed to processes and greater simplicity in the application of the rules.

The desire for a procedural change in matrimonial nullity proceedings had been expressed in the Instrument of Work of the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops in 2014, while, in August of the same year, the Pope appointed a study commission to look into the matter. In fact, the Tribunal has a number of deadlines set by canon law itself that must be observed. However, there are factors that are independent of the judge's will, predisposing the process to be slower than it should be. For example, in many places there are no people qualified for this type of work or those working in the courts carry out other church activities, which makes the resolution of cases even slower because of the large number of cases for a few professionals. The good of God's people, which cannot be separated from justice and

truth, shows the pastoral motivation of the reform and the applicability of the supreme rule of law, which is the good of souls.

The second article, Pope Francis' ecclesiology in *Evangelii gaudium*: a rescue of the Church as People of God and its synodal implications in the canonical order, by Prof. Alberto Montealegre Vieira Neves, professor at the Catholic University of Salvador (Ucsal) and president of the Inter-Diocesan Ecclesiastical Tribunal of Salvador, is a research, based on *Lumen Gentium*, that relates the mystery and institutional dimensions of ecclesiology. The equal dignity of the baptised faithful indicates the need for a synodal and missionary Church with canonical implications.

Synod means common path (walking together). Pope Francis gave great importance to the theme in 2018 with the celebration of his third Synod: *youth, faith and vocational discernment*. In the same year, the International Theological Commission published the document *Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church*. Pope Francis' perspective on synodality is rooted in Latin American ecclesial development which, after Vatican II and because of the continent's serious social problems, promoted the great work of episcopal and lay conferences. The experience of Francis, as Archbishop of Buenos Aires and close to the reality of the poor, has opened the way to the understanding of an apostolate in synodal form that includes the communion of the People of God in view of the communal witness of charity.

The third article of the session, *A juridical vision of the norma missionis and the tria munera Christi for the protection of the right/duty of the faithful to spiritual goods in the Church*, by Saint-Luc Fénéus, Master of Canon Law at the Santa Catarina Institute, is a study of the *Norma Missionis* intended for all the baptised. The threefold office of Christ, Priest, Prophet and King, protects and guarantees the rights and duties of the People of God in view of the sanctification, teaching and governance of the ecclesial community.

Lately the *Norma Missionis* has been studied in many areas of canon law because the baptised are called to holiness (1 Pt 1:15) as a fundamental vocation. By virtue of the common priesthood of the faithful, one can, in union with Christ and the Church, live an extraordinary life, full of grace, especially in the most ordinary circumstances. The biblical basis of this essential (ontological) and existential reality of all baptised believers is in 1Pt 2:9: “*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people which God has purchased to proclaim the great work of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light*”. The *Norma Missionis* is a consequence of this spiritual and theological reality.

The second session, Jurisprudence of the Tribunal of the Roman Rota, brings the Holy Father’s speech, *An ecclesial journey with families and for the family*, to the prelates and lawyers of the Tribunal of the Rota, traditionally delivered in January to mark the opening of the Judicial Year. The emphasis of the speech is on the consequences of a materialistic culture that removes the experience of God from human existence in the family. Religious and social subjectivism walk in the same proportion as the denial of the possibility of establishing families with permanent and indissoluble bonds. If we turn our attention to the Scriptures, this project is in the creation of the human being, because God made it so, “*for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and be one flesh*”.

Then the same session presents the definitive affirmative sentence *Coram mons. Mauricio Mounier*, dated 16 October 2020, for a serious fault of judgment, and commented by Prof. Vincenzo Fasano, lawyer of the Tribunal of the Roman Rota. Alongside the Latin text of the sentence, we present the Portuguese translation so that the sentence of the Tribunal of the Roman Rota are widely known in Portuguese-speaking countries. The translation is by Leonardo Rosa Ramos, professor at the Pontificium Institutum Altioris Latinitatis and

at the Pontifical Athenaeum Sant'Anselmo, and secretary of the Pontificia Academia Latinitatis.

Finally, Hugo Cleilton da Silva Cavalcante, professor at the Pontifical Higher Institute of Canon Law in Rio de Janeiro and the Higher Institute of Canon Law in Santa Catarina, presents several *Publications of Canon Law in Brazil (2018-2020)*. We can see that canonical production in Brazil is intensifying, but we still have a lot to work on to meet the needs of the Church and culture.

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Editor