

Editorial

Pope Francis' activities in 2022

Pope Francis, at eighty-six years old and supported by only one lung, gives the homily every day during the morning mass celebrated in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, his residence. On Sunday he recites the Angelus and on Wednesday he gives the general audience in St. Peter's Square. In 2022 there will be over 150 speeches to heads of state, ambassadors, bishops, religious communities, etc., as well as numerous trips to Italy and around the world. Think of the pastoral visit to the city of L'Aquila, on 28 August, in solidarity with the victims of the earthquake, or the visit to the city of Assisi, on 24 September, on the occasion of the Economy of Francesco event.

Outside the Italian peninsula, we remember the apostolic journey of 23 April to Malta, an island in the Mediterranean Sea visited by Saint Paul, to meet migrants from Africa. The second trip took place in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, from 2 to 7 July, for an ecumenical peace pilgrimage. The third visit was to Canada, from 24 to 30 July, to meet the indigenous populations and ask forgiveness for an evangelization that had not respected their culture. The fourth trip was held in Kazakhstan, from September 13 to 15, to participate in the VII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. On that occasion the Pope reiterated the need to abandon religious fundamentalism which pollutes and corrodes every faith, instilling suspicion and contempt towards religion, as if it were a destabilizing factor in modern society, when on the contrary religions are not a problem, but part of the solution for harmonious coexistence between people. The fifth trip was to the Kingdom of Bahrain, from 3 to 6 November, on the occasion of the Bahrain Forum for Dialogue: East and West for Human Coexistence.

The year 2022 also saw the modification of some canons of the Code of Canon Law and the Code of the Eastern Catholic Churches, desi-

red by Pope Francis with the *Motu Proprio Competentias quasdam decernere* of 11 February, to decentralize some competences of the universal Church, without prejudice to the hierarchical dimension. The changes concern the statutes of interdiocesan seminaries (can. 237 § 2) and the norms for priestly training, established by the Episcopal Conference, with the need for confirmation by the Holy See (can. 242 § 1); the granting of the power to incardinate clerics in public clerical associations (can. 265); the extension of the time of exclaustation (can. 686 § 1); the resignation of the religious without the confirmation of the Holy See (can. 699 § 2 and 700); the obligation of confirmation by the Holy See for catechisms published by Episcopal Conferences (can. 775 § 2). A further innovation, with the rescript of 18 May, was the concession of being able to elect or appoint a non-cleric religious to the office of Superior, derogating from can. 588 § 2. On the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul, Pope Francis published the Apostolic Letter *Desiderio deservi* on the liturgical formation of the people of God, a text addressed to Bishops, Presbyters and Deacons, consecrated persons and the lay faithful.

As part of the administrative activity of the Church, Pope Francis published, on March 19, the Apostolic Constitution *Praedicate Evangelium* on the Roman Curia and its service to the Church in the world. On 14 February with the apostolic letter *motu proprio Fidem servare* had already modified the internal structure of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, establishing two distinct sections to separate doctrinal and disciplinary competences, and assigning a secretary to each.

The number 10 of *Scientia Canonica* is made up of four sections: articles, jurisprudence, speech by Pope Francis and communications. The first article deals with the diocesan commission for the protection of minors, written by Fabiano Schwanck Colares, coordinator of the special archdiocesan commission for the promotion and protection of children, adolescents and vulnerable people of the Archdiocese of Porto Alegre. In the second article, Anna Sammassimo, researcher in canon and ecclesiastical law at the University of Padua, makes a brief reflection on can. 702 CIC. The jurisprudence section accepts a sentence of 20 June 2021 by Monsignor Felipe Heredia Esteban which deals with marital nullity due to lack of discretion in the judgment on the part of

the actor, the sentence is accompanied by the commentary by Vincenzo Fasano and the translation by Leonardo Rosa Ramos . This issue presents the Holy Father's speech to the participants in the Meeting of the International Catholic Legislators Network which focuses on three key words: justice, fraternity and peace. The volume concludes with communications relating to the activities carried out by the ISDCSC in the second half of 2022.

The Editorial Committee of the *Revista Scientia Canonica* continues to receive contributions from canon law scholars from Brazil and abroad, thus contributing to the development of the Santa Catarina Institute of Canon Law in three directions: teaching, research and dissemination.

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Editor