

CANON LAW AND THE (CATHOLIC) LAWYER: A FISH OUT OF WATER?

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INTRODUCTION

I. COMPARATIVE LAW AS A WAY FORWARD

II. SOME CURRENT CANONICAL ISSUES IN THE CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF IMPORTANCE TO CIVIL LAWYERS

A. Parish Mergers, Relegation to Profane but Not Sordid Use of Churches, And Hierarchical Recourses

B. Maintaining Catholic Identity

C. Temporal Goods: Ecclesiastical Goods, Civil Law, and Alienation

D. The Sexual Abuse Crisis

III. SOME CONCERNS FOR THE FUTURE: DUE PROCESS, DISTINCTION AND SEPARATION OF POWERS, AND LACK OF MINIMAL STANDARDS

CONCLUSION

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