



About the Author

The Rev. Dr. Patrick Viscuso is a specialist in the religious laws of the Eastern Church. His doctorate from The Catholic University of America concentrated on Byzantine and Oriental canon law, patristic studies, and church history. He is the author of a large number of scholarly publications. His most recent writings focus on marriage, purity issues, and women's superstitions in Byzantium. He is a frequent lecturer and a past president of the United States Byzantine Studies Conference.

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Orthodox Canon Law

A Casebook for Study

By Patrick Viscuso

A Learning Resource

ISBN: 1-932401-10-5 Price \$19.95 Softcover 168 pages

When the average Orthodox hears the words "canon law," among the things that may come to mind are a dusty code or a set of severe regulations resulting in excommunication for the slightest infraction. Far from it! Fr. Viscuso conveys the point that canon law, as the tradition of the canons, is an incarnational reality.

The canons are pastoral standards manifesting God's saving Truth, rather than a set of harsh authoritarian rules. The author uses a unique approach with case studies to elicit answers from the readers, while including an answer key at the end of work to provide an extremely enlightening and lively commentary. This book initiates dialogue and is an exciting resource for all interested in the Life of the Church.

The book *Orthodox Canon Law, A Casebook for Study* offers a real-life view of the central issues involved in orthodox canon law. Since the analysis of cases plays a critical role in this study, Fr. Viscuso has assembled a broad collection of cases encountered in his work as an educator and canonist:

- The purpose of marriage.
- Marital relations.
- Marriage with non-Christians and non-Orthodox.
- Who appointed the bishops?
- Autocephaly.
- Legal actions against bishops and the Church.
- Sources of canon law.
- Relations with other Christians.
- Orthodox unity in America.

The cases are developed in substantial detail to reflect the rich theological and pastoral dimensions involved, and bring the reader to an understanding of their underlying fundamental principles.

“Students are directed to a fuller comprehension of the incarnational reality of the Church. Far from glorifying any "Golden Age" of ecclesiastical structures, Viscuso empowers the reader to cope with the needs of the Church in the present.”

Dr. Eva Synek – Institute for Legal Philosophy, Law on Religion and Culture,
Law Faculty, University of Vienna