Using Canon Law Abstracts

Canon Law Abstracts covers published articles on topics in canon law. There are two issues per year. The library keeps issues for the current year on the 1st floor. Previous issues are in the periodical area in the basement, where older issues of periodicals are organized alphabetically by title.

Entries are arranged by the following subdivisions:

- General Subjects
- Historical Subjects
- Books 1 through 7 of the canon, broken down by canon numbers.

Notes:

The first part of the citation is an abbreviation for the source of the document. A list of the abbreviations used are inside the front and back covers. CLSN, for example, stands for Canon Law Society Newsletter. The Maly Library subscribes to many of these publications. Check the list at the computer workstations or in the periodicals area of the basement to see if an issue is in our collection.

The second part of the citation is the volume or issue number and the year of the article’s publication. For example, 135/03 means the article was in issue number 135 of the volume for 2003.

The third part of the citation gives the page numbers, for example, 3-37.

These three parts are followed by a colon and the author, then the title.

Finally, the nature of the document is given in parentheses at the end of the citation. Examples of types of material include document, article, comment, essay, homily, lecture, commentary, and response.

All abstracts are in English. However, the article may be in any language. The language used for the title indicates the language of the article.

Citations often contain cross references to other citations. Follow these for a fuller description of the entry.
Anatomy of a page:

BOOK IV, PART I. TITLE VI: ORDERS

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IE XV 1/03, 295: Congregazione della Dottrina della Fede: Decreto di scomunica, 5 agosto 2002. (Document)

See below, canon 1364.

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IE XV 1/03, 295-296: Congregazione della Dottrina della Fede: Decreto sull'attentata ordinazione sacerdotale di alcune donne cattoliche, 27 gennaio 2003. (Document)

This is the text of a decree that includes, first of all, a summary of the decrees of 10 July 2002 and 5 August 2002 (see below, canons 1347 and 1364). It also includes an account of scripts and interviews given by the seven women insisting on their personal conviction as to the validity of their “orders”, and aiming to bring about a change in the definitive doctrine on this matter. The decree then explains that the women sent a letter on 14 August 2002 asking for the decrees to be revoked, and in a letter of 27 September 2002 they initiated a recourse against the decree, in accordance with canons 1732-1739. Consequently the members of the Congregation met in Rome during the period 4 - 18 December and, after examining in ordinary session the petitions for revocation and for recourse, it was collegially decided to reject both requests. This decree was then approved in forma specifica by the Holy Father in an audience granted on 20 December 2002. The text of the decree also explains, in five separate paragraphs, the various aspects involved in the whole affair.

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See above, canons 265-272.