

Summary

The legislator in the can. 293 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law states: “A cleric who loses the clerical state cannot be enrolled among clerics again except through a rescript of the Apostolic See”. The cleric, who left the clerical state, accepted the lay state, and over the years realized that this decision was wrong, rediscovered his lost identity of a priest, and is in the position of a humble petitioner asking for the grace of readmission into clerical state, can be given this grace from the Church. However, he must realize that he has no right to be re-admitted to a clerical state. If he humbly asks for this grace, the Church will consider all the necessary circumstances, and can grant him this grace.

The aim of the thesis is: to introduce the problematic of return to the clerical state in the history of the Church based on the historical-legal analysis of documents issued by the Church during history; to point out the reasons why priests leave the clerical ministry, and consequently the clerical state; to analyze the process of return to the clerical state, and to provide assistance to ordinaries and laicized clerics on how to proceed in these difficult situations. The analysis of the procedure is divided into a diocesan phase, and a phase handled by the Apostolic See. Regarding the procedure in the diocesan phase, in the dissertation were indicated the requirements of the petition for a rescript and the opinion of the ordinary, who intends to incarnate the petitioner. As regards the procedure handled by the Apostolic See, it was clarify which dicastery is competent to accept the petition, and handle it

Key words: cleric, clerical state, laicization, grace, procedure