I. Observation

A. Being an introduction, the history will focus on the major development of Canon Law in the life of the Christian community.

B. Reviewing the history and looking over the Code of Canon Law (Books 1 and 2) will be helpful preparation for the class. Do not get bogged down in things you do not understand, just make a note of them so you can ask questions, but please try and be prepared by being familiar with the basics.

C. The questions are provided for you to consider before class.

II. Questions:

A. How is the legal system in the Church different from the American legal system?

B. What is necessary for a valid juridic act?

C. Are there any rights or responsibilities for the laity that seem unexpected?

D. Does Book 2 seem similar to Vatican II? (particularly in relationship to Lumen Gentium)

E. Do the Bishops of the world work for the Pope?

F. What is a local Church? How might this impact parish life?

III. Readings

A. Required reading:
   ii.  *An Introduction to Canon Law*, James A Coriden, pages 3-30 and 59-70
   iii. Canons: 1-9; 204-231

B. Suggested readings:
   i.  *An Introduction to Canon Law*, James A Coriden, pages 31-44; 70-106; 157-171
   ii. Canons of Book 1 and 2