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Migrants of the Eastern Catholic Churches. A canonical-juridical study.

#### Summary

Migrants of the Eastern Catholic Churches have many special rights, which are confirmed by canon law. These rights are, among other, the right to have their own ordinary and pastor, the right to worship God according to the prescriptions of their own Church *sui iuris*, the right to follow their own form of spiritual life, the right to receive from the pastors of the Church assistance out of the spiritual goods of the Church. What is very important, apart from their rights, these migrants also have special obligations such as the obligation to maintain communion with their Church *sui iuris* and the obligation to observe their rite. In order to exercise their rights and fulfill their obligations, the migrants of Eastern Catholic Churches must be provided with appropriate pastoral structures.

Over the centuries, the Church has developed many offices and legal institutions in this area, including chaplaincies, *missio cum cura animarum*, personal parishes, territorial parishes, ordinariates, exarchates and eparchies established beyond historical boundaries of the Eastern Churches. Apart from the structures themselves, there are also various entities that are legally responsible for the pastoral care of migrants.

In this work, beside detailed presentation of all these institutions and entities, it is also discussed how pastoral care for eastern migrants is connected with the Church's concern about the preservation of eastern rites. Nowadays the Church is working hard to ensure that the heritage of the East is adequately secured outside the traditional boundaries of the Eastern Churches.