

Second Section:

Church Authority: Its Visible Fountain-Head and Channels.

We have seen that the *passive* subjects of Church authority are all those who have received baptism. Its holders, or *active* subjects, are the pope, who is the visible source of all authority, or those to whom either the pope or the bishops, under papal sanction, grant jurisdictional powers.

The hierarchy of Order, by divine institution, comprises three degrees—namely, the episcopate, the priesthood and the diaconate. The hierarchy of Jurisdiction or Authority comprises, by divine institution, three degrees—viz., the papacy, the episcopacy, and the priesthood. Popes and bishops and priests exercise jurisdiction by divine right. Others, holding jurisdiction in the Church—either ordinary or delegated—hold it solely by ecclesiastical ordinance—such ecclesiastical ordinance being expressly authorized, of course, by our Lord: Mat. 16' 19; 18' 18—etc.

Considered in its relation to office, jurisdiction is either ordinary—*i.e.*, either divinely or ecclesiastically inherent in said office—or delegated, *i.e.*, not pertaining thereto, but granted by a Superior *ad hoc*.

As a rule, delegated jurisdiction may not be sub-delegated.

Considered in its relation to the tribunal before which it is exercised, jurisdiction is of two kinds—(*first*) jurisdiction in foro interno, which comprises jurisdiction (*a*) in the sacramental tribunal of Penance, and (*b*) in private ecclesiastical courts (e.g., the Roman Penitentiaria) dealing with matters of quasi-sacramental privacy: (*second*) jurisdiction in foro externo or in public ecclesiastical courts—viz., the power to rule the visible Body of the Church—to enact laws, render judgment and impose penalties.

The first, or internal jurisdiction, is directly and immediately concerned with the private welfare of every member of the Church.

The second, or public jurisdiction, is directly and primarily concerned with the public welfare of the Body of the Faithful (Bouix: De Princip. Jur. Can., P. 4, s. 6, c. 3).

Jurisdiction in the Internal Forum: How Distributed.

[387] Its sole efficient cause or fountain-head is the Invisible Head of the Church, Jesus Christ.

Its visible source is the visible head of the Church, the Vicar of Jesus Christ. In him alone does it reside permanently, as in its visible reservoir—whence it flows (*a*) sacramen-