

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910455230803321
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Titolo	Marriage advice for a Pope [[electronic resource]] : John XXII and the power to dissolve // by Patrick Nold
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; Boston, : Brill, 2009
ISBN	1-282-40021-5 9786612400216 90-474-2442-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (304 p.)
Collana	Medieval law and its practice, , 1873-8176 ; ; v. 3
Disciplina	262.9/2
Soggetti	Impediments to marriage (Canon law) - History Monasticism and religious orders (Canon law) - History Marriage - Annulment (Canon law) - History Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Latino
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [189]-196) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material / P. Nold -- Part One. Introduction / P. Nold -- Part Two. Edition / P. Nold -- Bibliography / P. Nold -- Index Biblicus / P. Nold -- Index Of Medieval Authors And Texts / P. Nold -- Index Of Modern Authors / P. Nold.
Sommario/riassunto	The Medieval Church taught that marriage was indissoluble and that consent was the key. Why then could a marriage be dissolved by one spouse joining a religious order after an exchange of consent but before consummation? This question vexed Thirteenth-century academics and, in the fourteenth century, Pope John XXII asked a group of leading theologians and lawyers to study the issue. Position-papers were produced to explain the exception to the rule of indissolubility for chaste monks and nuns, and to explore whether the pope had the power to extend it to celibate priests and deacons. These texts, edited here, were used by John XXII to draft his bull <i>Antique Concertationi</i> (1322). This study reconstructs the story behind the constitution, providing a unique insight into the decision-making process at the Roman curia in Avignon under a controversial pope.

