

TITLE XXIV TRIALS IN GENERAL

Can. 1152 §1. Every penal action is extinguished by the death of the accused, by pardon granted by competent authority, and by prescription.

§2. A penal action is extinguished by prescription after three years, unless it is a question of:

1^o delicts reserved to the Apostolic See, which are subject to special norms;

2^o with due regard for the prescript of n. 1, an action concerning the delicts mentioned in cann. 1449, 1450, 1451 and 1453, §§1-4 and 6-7, 1463, 1464, and 1466, which is extinguished by a prescription of seven years, or an action concerning the delicts mentioned in can. 1453, §5, which has a prescription of twenty years;

3^o delicts that are not punished under common law, if another time limit of prescription has been established by particular law.

§3. For an accused cited according to the norm of can. 1474 or in the way foreseen in can. 1190, §3, with him or her having been notified of the presentation of the *libellus* of accusation according to can. 1472, §1, prescription of a penal action is suspended for three years. When this time has elapsed or the suspension has been interrupted due to the cessation of the penal process, the time runs again, which is added to the time that has already run for prescription. The same suspension equally has force if, having observed can. 1486, §1, n. 1, a process is undertaken to impose a penalty by extra-judicial decree.

§4. Unless the law provides otherwise, prescription starts running from the day on which the delict was committed or, if the delict is continuous or habitual, from the day on which it ceased.