

# The Catholic Catechism on Freemasonry

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Lecture Series on Freemasonry Through the Light of Catholicism

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# The Catholic Catechism on Freemasonry

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## Session 3.1 Philosophy of the First Degree

Now having been grounded in the history, structure, and sacramental system of Freemasonry, the objective of the first deep dive into the craft lodge degree system is to demonstrate how Freemasonry inveighs against Catholic soteriology through the Entered Apprentice Degree..

CATHOLIC  
CATECHISM ON  
FREEMASONRY  
LESSON THREE -  
RELIGION

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Naturalism, Indifferentism, and Oaths

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The First Degree of Freemasonry

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Indifferentism

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Naturalism

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Oaths

# The Catholic Catechism on Freemasonry

## - *Overall Points of Conflict with the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree*

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Freemasonry sees the initiated as someone who is in darkness and has sought out the mysteries of Freemasonry for enlightenment. This process of bringing the initiate to light involves stripping down of everything that he brought with him from the world and building him back again as a Freemason (a type of Sacrament of Baptism). There is a fatal price to obtain these mysteries that will eventually cost the initiate their very life from which will be raised as a Master Mason (a type of being raised in Christ). The Entered Apprentice begins this journey of building themselves with the tools of a twenty-four inch gauge and common gavel



# In Eminenti apostolatus specula (The High Watch) Pope Clement XII - 1738

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“Now it has come to Our ears, and common gossip has made clear, that certain Societies, Companies, Assemblies, Meetings, Congregations or Conventicles called in the popular tongue Liberi Muratori or Francs Massons or by other names according to the various languages, are spreading far and wide and daily growing in strength; and men of any Religion or sect, satisfied with the appearance of natural virtue, are associated with one another in a union, according to their laws and the statutes laid down for them, by a strict and unbreakable bond which obliges them, both by an oath upon the Holy Bible and by a host of grave penalties, to an inviolable silence about all that they do in secret together.”

# Humanum Genus (The Human Race) Pope Leo XIII - 1884

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“Now, the masonic sect produces fruits that are pernicious and of the bitterest savor. For, from what We have above most clearly shown, that which is their ultimate purpose forces itself into view - namely, the utter overthrow of that whole religious and political order of the world which the Christian teaching has produced, and the substitution of a new state of things in accordance with their ideas, of which the foundations and laws shall be drawn from mere naturalism.”



# The Catholic Catechism on Freemasonry

## - *The Three Irreconcilable Conflicts*

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- Indifferentism
- Naturalism
- Oaths

# **The Catholic Catechism on Freemasonry**

## **- *The Three Irreconcilable Conflicts***

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- **Non-Guild**
- **Jurisdictional Variation**
- **Catholic Objection**

# The Catholic Catechism on Freemasonry

## - *The Three Irreconcilable Conflicts*

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- **Indifferentism**

- The Catholic Church believes and teaches and that there is no salvation outside of the Church and, therefore, that the Catholic Church is the fullness of truth. This belief does not limit God who saves, but proclaims that Christ and His Church are God's given path to that gift of salvation. Therefore, the idea that one religion is as good as another, and that all religions are equally valid paths to salvation is antithetical to what Christ Jesus revealed and to Catholic soteriology.

# INDIFFERENTISM IN THE EA DEGREE

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- Candidate is stripped down (barefoot, undies or white garment) and divested of all metals (not always wedding ring) and blindfolded, right breast exposed, with a cable-two once around arm/neck.
- Blindfold to symbolize that they are coming from darkness into light. The presupposition that Freemasonry is offering a higher form of enlightenment than the candidate's religious beliefs.
- This matriculation into 'more' light through the grades/degrees/sacraments of Freemasonry is Gnostic.
- The first question asked of the candidate, 'In whom do you place your trust'. The answer being 'God' without any specification.
- After the obligation, the initiate is taught that the Holy Bible is the rule and guide of faith. This is a Protestant position (sola-scriptura) and only spreads indifferentism and relativism.
- Clothed with a white lambskin apron. Taught it is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Freemasonry. Ideological Protestant; being covered with Christ – no internal change.

# The Catholic Catechism on Freemasonry

## - *The Three Irreconcilable Conflicts*

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- # Naturalism

- The Catholic Church believes and teaches and that God is the source of our life and all that is good, and that we are on a pilgrimage to return to Him. The sacraments, the signs that Christ Jesus left on earth, order us to the Eternal Father through His grace, and help us to order all that is good back to Him. Naturalism looks to nature as the one original and fundamental source of all that exists and attempts to use it to explain causes and to order life back to nature.

# NATURALISM IN THE EA DEGREE

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- Self-determination is a central teaching in Freemasonry; that the initiate is to use the tools of an operative Mason to apply the philosophical meaning of that tool to his life and, thereby, become a better man.
  - Twenty-four-inch gauge, the initiate is taught that operative Mason used the tool to measure and lay work, but as a Free and Accepted Masons are taught to use for more noble and glorious purpose, whereby we find a portion for the service of God and the relief of a distressed worthy brother, a portion for our usual avocations, and a portion for refreshment and sleep.
  - The common gavel - The common gavel is an instrument made use of by operative masons to break off the superfluous corners of rough stones, the better to fit them for the builder's use; but we, as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of divesting our minds and consciences of all the vices and superfluities of life, thereby fitting us, as living stones, for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
  - Three lesser lights of Freemasonry – sun, moon, master of the lodge – sun rules the day, moon governs the night, so too should the Worshipful Master rule and guide his lodge with equal regularity.

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- # Oaths

- I, (name of candidate), of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God, and this Worshipful Lodge, erected to Him, and dedicated to the holy Sts. John, do hereby and hereon most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, that I will always hail, ever conceal, and never reveal, any of the arts, parts, or points of the hidden mysteries of Ancient Free Masonry, which may have been, or hereafter shall be, at this time, or any future period, communicated to me, as such, to any person or persons whomsoever, except it be to a true and lawful brother Mason, or in a regularly constituted Lodge of Masons; nor unto him or them until, by strict trial, due examination, or lawful information, I shall have found him, or them, as lawfully entitled to the same as I am myself. I furthermore promise and swear that I will not print, paint, stamp, stain, cut, carve, mark, or engrave them, or cause the same to be done, on any thing movable or immovable, capable of receiving the least impression of a word, syllable, letter, or character, whereby the same may become legible or intelligible to any person under the canopy of heaven, and the secrets of Masonry thereby unlawfully obtained through my unworthiness. All this I most solemnly, sincerely promise and swear, with a firm and steadfast resolution to perform the same, without any mental reservation or secret evasion of mind whatever, binding myself under no less penalty than that of having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by its roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea, at low-water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours, should I ever knowingly violate this my Entered Apprentice obligation. So help me God, and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same.

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## Session 3.2 Philosophy of the Second Degree

The second sacrament of Freemasonry is the Fellow Craft Degree through which the initiate is brought into more light and advances to his goal of being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.