

The Catholic Catechism on Freemasonry

Lecture Series on Freemasonry Through the Light of Catholicism

– Instructor David L. Gray, M.A.T.

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Session Seven – Humanum Genus

The objective of this seventh lecture is to ground the student in the focus of Pope Leo XIII's *Humanum Genus*, which was to expose Freemasonry as being created by Satan to use it to destroy the world by freeing countries and state governments from the influence of Catholic teaching and replacing it with naturalism.

CATHOLIC
CATECHISM ON
FREEMASONRY
LESSON SEVEN -
THE HUMAN RACE

Humanum Genus

Historical Background of Papal Encyclical

Areas of Major Contribution & Legacy

HUMANUM GENUS- FAST FACTS

- **Author:** Pope Leo XIII (1878 – 1903) - oldest serving Pope (93)
- **Promulgated:** at St. Peter's, April 1884 (38 paragraphs)
- **Purpose:** This is his first of six encyclicals against Freemasonry. This is his magnum opus on the subject. Marxism is the new emerging threat and would pave the way for poison of Communism, but here in the waning hours of the 19th century, Freemasonry is still growing stronger. Leo XIII blames Freemasonry for the spread of anti-Catholicism.
- Responded to European Colonization by sending out missionaries to both spread the faith in new lands and to protect the local communities from material harm.
- Other important encyclical was Rerum Novarum.
- Wrote eleven encyclicals on the Holy Rosary and first Pope to refer to the Blessed Mother under the title of Mediatrix and Co-redemptrix. Also approve two new Marian scapulars.

HUMANUM GENUS - HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Leo XIII is the first non-Monarch Pope in centuries. Did not have the manage and defend Papal states or depend on them for revenue.
- According to Taxil, both Cardinal Rampolia and Pope Leo XIII told him that they had also been initiated into Freemasonry as Entered Apprentices during their youth.
- 1877 the Grand Orient of Italy (now given to Atheism/1813) had chartered Lodge Propaganda Massonica (also known as P2), which was a subordinate lodge purposed to ensure the complete privacy of membership for notable and notorious men, both within and without the organization. Formally unchartered in 1984.
- Etsi Multa (1873) – Bl. Pope Pius IX and Humanum Genus (1884) show the secrets of Our Lady of La Salette must have been known by them.

HUMANUM GENUS - AREAS OF CONCERN

Major Points:

- Paragraphs 1 – 2: Echoes Saint Augustine's – City of God: Freemasonry is in City of Satan, and Satan is being assisted by the Freemasons who have openly and publicly declared their intentions to destroy the Catholic Church.
- Paragraphs 6 – 7: The contents of this encyclical were gained through exposes of rituals, the Masonic constitution, books of laws, and investigations. Pope asserts rights to govern the personal affairs of the lives of Catholics – their associations do not fall outside the purview of Church authority.
- Paragraph 8: States that in previous encyclicals he defending marriages, wrote against socialism and communism, and championed the sovereign monarchy as the ideal political government. Now, in this encyclical, he will follow his predecessors “to treat of the masonic society itself, of its whole teaching, of its aims, and of its manner of thinking and acting, in order to bring more and more into the light its power for evil, and to do what We can to arrest the contagion of this fatal plague.”
- Paragraphs 9 – 11: This encyclical concerns the root of Freemasonry, which is the craft lodge. Now openly public (publications, media). Goes on to describe the Masonic oath.
- Paragraphs 12 – 13: called Freemasonry a form of the heresy of ‘naturalism; “Now, the fundamental doctrine of the naturalists, which they sufficiently make known by their very name, is that human nature and human reason ought in all things to be mistress and guide. Laying this down, they care little for duties to God, or pervert them by erroneous and vague opinions. For they deny that anything has been taught by God; they allow no dogma of religion or truth which cannot be understood by the human intelligence, nor any teacher who ought to be believed by reason of his authority.”

HUMANUM GENUS - AREAS OF CONCERN

Major Points:

- Paragraphs 14 - 15: Describes the attack of the Freemasons against the Church is hostile. They are attacking the very foundation of the Catholic religion. They are usually all means of speech, writing, and teaching. They are attacking the rights of the Church in society, they are anti-clerical, they are attacking duties of the Church in society. They are trying to make it show that the Church has no influence in the public space. They are wanting the sacred power of the Pope to be abolished and even the Papacy itself.
- Paragraphs 16 - 19: They are inducing simple minded people with the idea that all religions are equal – indifferentism. By this lack of conviction of there being one God and one truth, the Freemasons intend to do away with knowledge as to what constitutes justice and injustice, or upon what principle morality is founded. The Freemason's version of morality they favor teaching the youth concerns a teaching on civility, independence, and freedom that does not contain any religious beliefs. By removing Christian education, "this teaching has begun more completely to rule, there goodness and integrity of morals have begun quickly to perish, monstrous and shameful opinions have grown up, and the audacity of evil deeds has risen to a high degree. All this is commonly complained of and deplored; and not a few of those who by no means wish to do so are compelled by abundant evidence to give not infrequently the same testimony."
- Paragraph 20: The naturalism of Freemasonry is no hope against the original sin and, thereby, makes us more disposed to vice than virtue.

HUMANUM GENUS - AREAS OF CONCERN

Major Points:

- Paragraph 21: The naturalism of Freemasonry has made marriage just a genus of commercial contracts, which can be rightly removed by the will of those who made them, and has given civil authorities the power over the matrimonial bond, and has taught the youth that religion is just personal opinion and that when they come to age, they can choose whatever religion they prefer – that is their liberty. The Freemasons have taken upon themselves the duty of educating children to old their opinions at “that soft and pliant age, and bend it whither they will; and that nothing can be more fitting than this to enable them to bring up the youth of the State after their own plan.”
- Paragraphs 22 – 23: They are also exporting their naturalism to the doctrine of politics; that all men have the same rights – that everyone is natural free; that no one has the right to command another; that it is an act of violence to require men to obey authority other than that which is obtained from themselves (freedom from religion). They believe that the state should be without God.
- Paragraphs 24 - 28: The dogmas of Freemasonry are so perverse that it is evidence that it comes from Satan to destroy the religion of the Catholic Church that God Himself has established. Freemasonry is the return to paganism and it will ruin the human race. Having described the litany of errors of Freemasonry, moves to evangelize and encourage. Having demonstrated that Freemasonry is using its chief dogma of naturalism to deconstruct the very foundations of society, in these paragraphs, Pope Leo XIII makes six succinct points about the mission and outcome of its effort: (1) Freemasonry wishes to replace Catholicism with the customs of paganism. (2) Freemasonry is attempting to replace the rule of justice and civility with a society ruled by autonomy.

HUMANUM GENUS - AREAS OF CONCERN

Major Points:

- (3) The teaching that all men are equal should not be determined to mean that all men are autonomous and free to follow their own will. (4) Through deliberate planning, Freemasons are working in conjunction with socialists and communists to over-throw society's fear of God and reverence for divine laws and replace it with human worship. (5) Freemasons have ingratiated themselves with rulers "under the pretense of friendship" and have successfully convinced many of them that the Catholic Church is their enemy and a threat to their authority and sovereignty. Through this campaign of whispering into the ears of rulers, Freemasonry has secured its own security and began exercising great influence in governments. (6) Freemasons have also deluded the masses by charging that the Church and their ruler's relationship with the Church are why they are not as free and rich as they deserve. This campaign of whispering into the ears of the common people have "have urged them to assail both the Church and the civil power."
- Paragraph 29: Leo XIII argues against the separation of Church and state and state and makes the case of how society benefits when the state listens to the teaching authority of the Church on matters that affect the wellbeing of its citizens. It is wrong to believe that the Church is attempting to usurp the state of its rights and sovereignty when She directs men to be obedient to the laws of God.

HUMANUM GENUS - AREAS OF CONCERN

Major Points:

- Paragraphs 30 – 38: Follows Bl. Pope Pius IX (Etsi Multa) to lay out a step-by-step tactical plan to rid the world of the Masonic plague. 1. Ratifies and confirms the dogma against Freemasonry 2. Calls on the Bishops to make it their priority to uproot and destroy “this foul plague”. Admonishes bishops to not let men think they may join any Masonic sect for any reason. 3. Calls on bishops to engage the clergy and laity into this battle so that their love and knowledge of the Church will grow and they will be less likely to fall into the snares of secret societies. In addition, the bishops should support and encourage the laity in seeking membership into the Third Order of Saint Francis and associations of guilds for workmen like Saint Vincent’s Society. Such Christian oriented organizations can suppress interest in Freemasonry by giving men and women fraternity and opportunity to labor for the common good and to be detached from the contagion of evil. 4. Fourth, Leo XIII states that the bishops should devote the greatest part of their care to the instruction of the youth. They should keep them away from schools that are under the influence of Freemasonry and, under their guidance, let parents, religious teachers, and priests warn children about the danger and nature of Freemasonry so that they will not become ensnared.

HUMANUM GENUS - CONTRIBUTION & LEGACY

- Due to its exhaustive precision, incisiveness, and prophetic content, Leo XIII's Humanum Genus is the most well-known and cited Papal document on Freemasonry. Its place in the Church as an encyclical teaching tool lies in its examination of Freemasonry as being a naturalistic philosophy and the societal impacts therewith.

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Session Eight – Officio Sanctissimo

The objective of this eighth lecture is to ground the student in the focus of Pope Leo XIII's *Officio Sanctissimo*; where he uses the principle of subsidiarity to offer Humanum Genus to the local community of Bavaria and will detail precisely how it is that Freemasons have used the principles of Freemasonry to infiltrate and plot against the State so that it can be manipulated and used as a tool to supplant the Catholic Church.