

OPPOSING FORCES

Organizations and Cultural Trends
That Oppose the Teachings of the
Catholic Church

Dcn. Pat Goin, 1/27/2019

EXAMPLES

- Freemasonry
 - Popular Culture
 - Politics
 - Pornography
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- A series of several parallel white lines of varying thicknesses, slanted diagonally from the bottom-left towards the top-right, set against a blue gradient background.

If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first.
If they persecuted me, they will also persecute
you...

(Jn 15:18, 20)

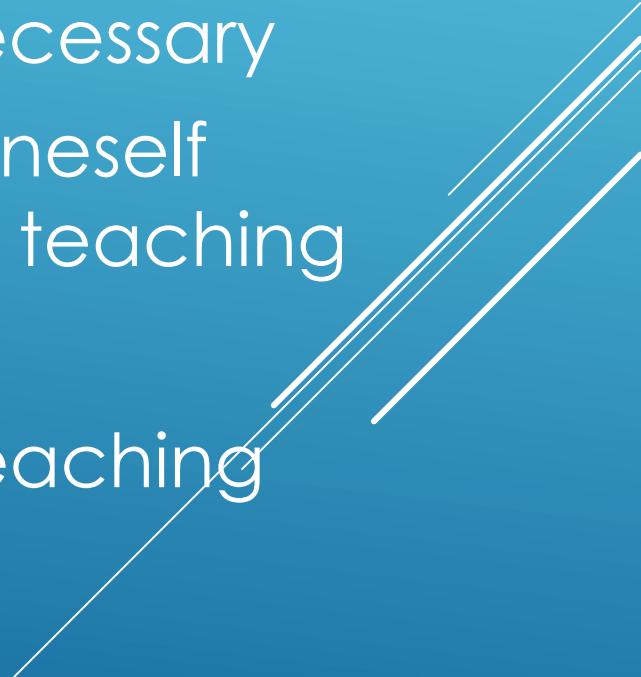
FREEMASONRY



FREEMASONRY

- Secret, quasi-religious, non-Christian Organization started in British Isles in the 1700's
- It's Naturalistic and Deist beliefs are incompatible with the Catholic Faith
- Some Masonic Rites are openly opposed to Catholic schools, the Pope, etc., but it's beliefs are the problem.
- Denys the Trinity. Instead refers to God as "the Great Architect of the Universe"

FREEMASONRY

- Name of Jesus is never used in Masonic prayers
 - Teaches Salvation comes from good works alone
 - Belief in Jesus Christ, sacraments, etc., not necessary
 - Individual religious beliefs are to be kept to oneself because they are secondary to the Masonic teaching about God
 - Requires oaths incompatible with Catholic teaching
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FREEMASONRY

- Condemned by Pope Clement XII in 1730 for:
 - Depending on natural virtue while ignoring Christ's role as savior
 - Its rash oaths and demands to hold trivial lodge secrets
- Pope Leo XIII issued the document *Humanum Genus* in 1884
 - Described it as “a deceitful and crafty enemy.”
 - “Let no man think that he may for any reason whatsoever join the Masonic sect, if he values his Catholic name and his eternal salvation as he ought to value them

FREEMASONRY

- 1983 Code of Canon Law (c 1374) does not explicitly mention Freemasonry as did the 1917 Code—causing confusion
- To clarify, In 1983, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith renewed the Church's condemnation of Freemasonry
 - Author was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, later Pope Benedict XVI
 - Approved by Pope Paul II

FREEMASONRY

“...the Church’s negative judgment in regard to Masonic association remains unchanged since their principles have always been considered irreconcilable with the doctrine of the Church and therefore membership in them remains forbidden. The faithful who enroll in Masonic associations are in a state of grave sin and may not receive Holy Communion.

FREEMASONRY

- Conclusion of April of 1985 letter from Cardinal Bernard Law to US Bishops Concerning Masonry:
 - “In-depth research on the ritual and on the Masonic mentality makes it clear that it is impossible to belong to the Catholic Church and to Freemasonry at the same time.”
- Other churches condemn Freemasonry as well: Many Lutheran, Greek Orthodox, Evangelical, LDS, ...

FREEMASONRY

- In 2007, Bishop Galeone issued this statement:
“Catholic membership in the *Masons* has always been, and continues to be prohibited...This remains the current position of the church...Even though freemasonry as practiced in the United States is largely social and charitable in nature, its principles ‘have always been considered irreconcilable with the doctrine of the Church.’

FREEMASONRY

...2007, Bishop Galeone continued:

Reiterating the US Bishops 1983 statement, he went on to say: “The faithful who enroll in Masonic associations are in a state of grave sin and may not receive holy Communion.”

- This prohibition remains in effect

POPULAR CULTURE



POPULAR CULTURE

- General
 - Television, Movies, Radio
 - News Media
 - Internet & Social Media
- 

POPULAR CULTURE

General:

- Glamorizes and promotes ideas contrary to the teaching of the Catholic Church, for example:
 - Living Lives that do not need God
 - Abortion and euthanasia (Culture of Death)
 - Relativism
 - Promiscuity
 - Re-defined Marriage

POPULAR CULTURE

Television, Movies, and Radio:

- Often present as *normal* things contrary to Church teaching:
 - Free Sexuality vs. traditional Marriage
 - Getting-even vs. Forgiveness
 - Rugged Individualism vs. Love of Neighbor
 - Gratuitous Violence, Vulgarity and Sex rather than Love of neighbor


POPULAR CULTURE

News Media:

- Biased towards the Popular Culture:
 - Frequently portrays the Church in the most negative light possible
 - Jumps to conclusions that promote the Popular Culture's agenda rather than facts
- Has blurred the line between fact and opinion

POPULAR CULTURE

Internet & Social Media:

- A tremendous resource and a cesspool
 - Requires constant diligence in its use (Browser filters, etc.)
 - Often used to gutlessly and anonymously:
 - Criticize and bully others
 - Spread false information
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POLITICS



POLITICS

- No political party or candidate fully represents the teachings of the Catholic Church
- Blind partisanship fails at love of neighbor by demonizing opposition and preventing dialogue
- Determining candidates/parties to endorse requires a well-formed conscience (and a clothes-pin)
- And yet, we have a civic duty to select the best person for the elective position (See CCC 2240)

PORNOGRAPHY



PORNOGRAPHY

- Denys the Beauty and Vocation of the Human Person
 - Exchanges viewer's God-given sexual dignity for short-lived vicarious pleasure and the profit of others
 - Victimizes actors by taking their dignity in exchange for money and the pleasure and profit of others
- Denys the link between sexuality and procreation
 - Reduces the beautiful and sacred nature of sex to a level *lower* than that of animals

PORNOGRAPHY

- Destroys Marriages
 - Is a *real* form of infidelity
 - Leads to secretiveness and mistrust
 - Creates unrealistic expectations
 - Identified “as a major factor in over half of divorces”
(Create in Me a Clean Heart, p 14)
 - Increases the potential for extramarital affairs (ibid)

PORNOGRAPHY

- An Epidemic
 - It has become acceptable in popular culture
 - Average age of first exposure is *eleven* (*Create in me a Clean heart*, p 13)
 - Now regarded by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a behavioral disorder
 - May require professional counseling to end the addiction

PORNOGRAPHY

What to do?

- Be not afraid. Approach the altar of mercy. God is merciful and forgiving to those who turn to Him
- Go to Confession and discuss honestly with your priest
- If possible, see the same priest for confession to overcome, with the help of God, the temptation
- Regular confession increases one's resistance to the temptation


PORNOGRAPHY

What to do?

- Pray to the Blessed Virgin when tempted
- Seek professional help if necessary
- Practical things:
 - Keep computers where the screens are easily viewed by others—not locked away in a room


PORNOGRAPHY

What to do?

- Practical things (continued):
 - Set browser filters for “safe” browsing
 - Recognize times and circumstances of temptation and avoid using the internet at those times
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CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

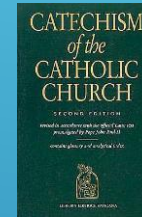
The forces that oppose the Catholic Church are personally opposing *your* relationship with God and the Church. They seek, often in subtle ways, to separate you from Christ.



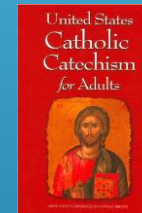
CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- Respond by knowing what the Church actually teaches

- Catechism of the Catholic Church



- United States Catechism for Adults



- Know scripture and the teachings of the early Church Fathers—both Catechisms have references to them

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- Make frequent and sincere use of the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation
- Discern a devotion or devotions that can help keep you focused *toward* eternal life
- Always question whether something will bring you *closer* to God or move you *further* from God. Dismiss those that move you away from God
- Remember the two most important Commandments, *Love God above all else, and your neighbor as yourself.*

“What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard,
and what has not entered the human heart, what
God has prepared for those who love him, this
God has revealed to us through the Spirit.”

(1 Corinthians 2:9)

QUESTIONS?



REFERENCE INFORMATION

- Create in Me a New Heart: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/pornography/index.cfm>
- Porn Addiction: Why Americans are in more danger than ever before: <https://www.foxnews.com/health/porn-addiction-why-americans-are-in-more-danger-than-ever>
- Can Catholics Become Freemasons: <http://canonlawmadeeasy.com/2008/09/25/can-catholics-become-freemasons/>
- Declaration on Masonic Associations: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19831126_declaration-masonic_en.html

REFERENCE INFORMATION

- April 19, 1985 Letter to U.S. Bishops Concerning Masonry:
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- Why Catholics Can't be Masons:
<https://www.osv.com/OSVNewsweekly/Perspectives/Article/TabId/726/ArtMID/13630/ArticleID/10517/Why-Catholics-cant-be-Masons.aspx>
- Catechism of the Catholic Church:
<http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/catechism/index.html#1>
- United States Catholic Catechism for Adults:
<http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/uscca/>