In this encyclical, Pope Leo XIII unmasks the diabolical activities of the freemasons who advance a program to utterly destroy the Catholic Church, under the deceitful cloak of promoting the good of humanity. The pope warns all Catholics and men of good will, especially political leaders, to shun freemasonry and their philosophies of naturalism.

**Two Kingdoms**

**Kingdom of God on earth** - The true Church of Jesus Christ, contending for truth and virtue; serving God with *mind* and *will* (the love of God)

**Kingdom of Satan** - Refuse to obey God, and hold Him in contempt (the love of self)

In this universal battle, there are only two kingdoms and there is no middle ground.¹

“He that is not with Me, is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me, scattereth.” (Mk 12:30) “But because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will begin to vomit thee out of my mouth.” (Rev 3:16)

**The Pope’s Duty**

(1) The glory of God ----------------------------------------------- The growth of the Kingdom of God
(2) The salvation of souls ----------------------------------------
(3) Raise and sound the alarm!
(4) Point out error and its dangers

In 1738 the popes (Clement XII) began to sound the alarm, and they have not ceased. Having more than enough evidence concerning the freemasons pernicious activities, the popes used the most severe penalties (excommunication) to forbid anyone from joining them. Some nations heeded these warnings and declared freemasonry illegal. Yet freemasonry continued to grow and spread its evil pestilence and ruin, vindicating the papal warnings. *Why?*

(1) Cunning, deceit and perseverance of the freemasons

(2) Thoughtless levity of those with the responsibility to oppose freemasonry (in Church and State). It was in their best interest to diligently attend to this matter; they did not. *(today?)*

**Is this really such a big deal?**

Recall Voltaire and the Freemason’s zeal in suppressing the Jesuits in order to destroy the Church. The French Revolution, atheistic communism, and absolute materialism and pleasure are the rotten fruits of their efforts. They look to corrupt the morals of society, to make the clergy

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¹ The powers of evil are gathering with greater vehemence and with less secrecy, under the banner of Freemasonry, to destroy the holy Church and rebel against God Himself.
worldly, and finally to change (destroy) Catholic doctrine. Look at the Freemason’s own teaching, e.g. *The Permanent Instruction of the Alta Vendita*.

Our ultimate end is that of Voltaire and the French Revolution - the final destruction of Catholicism and even of the Christian idea... The task we are going to undertake is not the work of a day, or of a month, or of a year; it may last several years, perhaps a century; but in our ranks the soldier dies and the struggle goes on... What we must ask for, what we should look for and wait for, as the Jews wait for the Messiah, is a Pope according to our needs... It is a question first of shaping for this Pope a generation worthy of the reign we are dreaming of. Leave old people and those of a mature age aside; go to you youth, and if it is possible, even to the children... Let the clergy march under your standard, always believing that they are marching under the banner of the Apostolic keys... You will have preached a revolution in tiara and in cope, marching with the cross and the banner, a revolution that will only need to be only a little bit urged to set fire to the four corners of the world.

The Code of Canon Law (1917) reads: “Canon 2335. Those giving their name to masonic sects or other associations of this sort that machinate against the Church or legitimate civil powers contract by that fact excommunication simply reserved to the Apostolic See.”

**Pope Leo XIII’s Vision.** On October 13, 1884 (exactly 33 years prior to the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima), Pope Leo had a vision. The most widely accepted version of what happened is as follows. After Pope Leo XIII had finished celebrating Mass in the Vatican Chapel, attended by a few Cardinals and members of the Vatican staff, he suddenly stopped at the foot of the altar. He stood there for several minutes, as if in a trance, his face ashen white. Some also say he fainted and appeared as dead. Upon recovering, he immediately went from the Chapel to his office and composed the prayer to St. Michael. He mandated that it be said after all Low Masses everywhere. [This prayer was eliminated in 1964 (why?) yet Pope John Paul II encouraged the faithful to say it again.] When asked what had happened, Pope Leo explained that, as he was about to leave the foot of the altar, he suddenly heard voices - two voices, one kind and gentle, the other guttural and harsh. They seemed to come from near the tabernacle. He overheard the following conversation:

The guttural voice, the voice of **Satan** in his pride, boasting to Our Lord: "I can destroy your Church"

The gentle voice of **Our Lord**: "You can? Then go ahead and do so."

**Satan**: "To do so, I need more time and more power."

**Our Lord**: "How much time? How much power?"

**Satan**: "75 to 100 years, and a greater power over those who will give themselves over to my service."

**Our Lord**: "You have the time, you will have the power. Do with them what you will."

**The Goal of this Encyclical**

**GOAL** - To stop the spread and activity of the Freemasons and those secret societies affiliated with them.
The pope shows how freemasonry is linked with communism, socialism, atheism, attacks against marriage, and the separation of Church and State. In this encyclical, it is his intention to follow the example of his predecessors and “directly 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.” [No. 8]

**The Freemasons**

**Unity of Secret Societies** - Though they may not all carry the same name, many similar secret associations are linked together with a common purpose, means, and teachings. [No. 9]

**Secrecy and Deceit** - Pass themselves off as culturally refined and ‘good’ people interested in promoting justice, helping the poor, and improving all life. They demand severe discipline, utmost secrecy and unquestioning obedience from their members.

**Evil Fruits** - Essentially opposed to natural virtue. Go against reason. Wish to bind men as slaves. Lie, permit bloodshed and justify all manner of impure crimes to advance their ultimate purpose. Their **GOAL** is the utter overthrow of the whole religious and political order of the world which the Christian teaching has produced, and the substitution of a new state of things (New Order) in accordance with their ideas, of which the foundations and laws shall be drawn from mere naturalism. [No. 10]

**Attack the Church and Pope** - Not just disregard the Church, but attack her very foundations. They diminish her rights and banish the religious orders, often with subtle laws; they wish to destroy all her liberty. They plot against the pope, and wish to abolish his sacred power (even the very institution of the Papacy). [No. 14-15]

**Naturalism**

**Fundamental Doctrine** - Human nature and human reason ought in all things be mistress and guide. [No. 12] The human, alone and unto himself, is supreme [humanism].

- No care for duties to God (virtue of religion), revelation, or dogma. The Church shall have no account in the State; a complete wall of separation between the two. [No. 13]

- They principally direct their rage and attack against the Church, since it is the Catholic Church that has the special and exclusive duty to fully set forth in words truths which are divinely revealed, to teach, to dispense the sacraments (means of salvation), and she has the divine authority to defend all these with perfect purity.

- **Undermine all religion**: “They teach the great error of this age - that a regard for religion should be held as an indifferent matter, and that all religions are alike. This manner of reasoning is calculated to bring about the ruin of all forms of religion, and especially of the

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2 The devil is the father of all lies; always uses deceit, secrecy & manipulation. Contrast this with public revelation.

3 Nothing supernatural: no revelation, miracles, sacraments, grace, saints, Church Fathers, Church authority, etc...
Catholic religion, which, as it is the only one that is true, cannot without great injustice, be regarded as merely equal to other religions.” [No. 16]

- **Belief in God**: While Freemasons may claim to have a general belief in God, it is not Christian in any sense and they deny Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost. Naturalists no longer follow right reason (as the pagans would) and even doubt the existence of God and the nature of the human soul. [No. 17] Thus, they also abandon belief in God’s providence, immortality of the soul, and the life to come. [No. 18]

- **God** is our providential sovereign Creator, who maintains the natural order and gives man his supernatural end. By rejecting this they lose the foundation for all supernatural virtue (and grace and salvation) and all natural virtue, like justice and morality. All that is left is relativism, total license and irreligion (justice can not exist). [No. 19]

- **Original Sin** - Man’s nature is weakened and more disposed to vice than virtue (which comes easier?). We are in a constant battle against our passions / flesh (also the world and the devil). Naturalism denies this truth and falsely exaggerates the natural powers of man. (False ideologies always lead to oppression, conflict and war, hatred and destruction.)

**Tools of the Freemasons**

- **Gospel of Pleasure** - Corrupt morality and lull the masses with license for vice, denying heaven and claiming all happiness is earthly. Thus they are more easily controlled. [No. 20]

- **Destroy Marriage** - Claim it is a commercial contract and divorce is permissible. There should be no fixed opinions regarding marriage or religion. [No. 21]

- **Educational Principles** - Remove the Church from education and have the State educate all children according to freemasonic principles. [No. 21]

- **Political Doctrines** - Basically, the principles upon which our country was founded and are cherished greatly to this day. The USA is a freemasonic country. [No. 22]

- **Communism and Paganism** - The logical consequence of these principles is atheistic communism and a return to paganism. Yet the freemasons are worse than pagans, because they reject even the natural light of reason, don’t seek and desire truth, and repudiated the benefits of Christ’s revelation. “In this insane and wicked endeavor we may almost see the

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4 They give the appearance of toleration and are not overtly opposed to one being religious. This makes them even more sinister and dangerous.

5 How widespread is this error today! Think of universalism (all are saved) and baptism is not absolutely necessary. How prideful it is to deny Original Sin. They cloak it under lingo of being optimistic, positive, and ‘up to date’.

6 Consider how much money is in the entertainment industry today. It was not always thus.

7 Read much of this paragraph directly. Pope Leo predicts the utter perversion of marriage. Once you destroy marriage, you destroy the family, virtue, and life (a masterstroke by the devil). In order to battle the evils of today, we have to go back to the beginning and uphold that marriage is sacred and inviolate and no divorce is permissible. Once you allow divorce, contraception shall follow, abortion thereafter, then homosexuality, bestiality, polygamy, pedophilia, and all manner of hideous unmentionable sexual immorality. These are all intrinsically linked!
implacable hatred and spirit of revenge with which Satan himself is inflamed against Jesus Christ.” [No. 24]

**Great Dangers to Society**

- Confusion and trouble in the family. Wife without dignity. Children without protection and the interests of their well being. Men irresponsible and neglecting their duty. [No. 24]
- The foundation for civic obedience is destroyed (recall Diuturnum Illud). [No. 25]
- A false equality is promoted which deforms the State [No. 26]
- Sedition, rebellion, change, and overthrow (instability, disorder and war) [No. 27]
- People and rulers are deceived. The very states that permit the freemasons to spread their ideas, prepare their very own destruction in this act. The freemasons use artful speech and false promises which shall only lead to greater oppression. [No. 28] They have infiltrated the Church as well (even more so today). *We reap what we sow.*

**The Solution**

1. Propagate the real and true teaching of the Church, of utmost benefit to all [No. 29]
2. Heed the warning of the Pope (this is a matter of eternal salvation) [No. 30]
3. The Bishops are called to arms (no compromise with freemasonry) [No. 31-32]
   - (a) Tear away the mask from freemasonry
   - (b) Permit no Catholic to join their ranks
   - (c) Assiduous teaching and exhortation, drawing all to the precepts of religion
4. Unite the effort of the clergy and laity [No. 33]
   - (a) Priests must be formed in learning and a well-disciplined life
   - (b) Give men a greater knowledge of the Church, then they will love her more
5. Promote the Ideal of St. Francis: love the Church, observe Christian virtues, authentic liberty, fraternity and equality [No. 34] (Note the many misconceptions we have regarding St. Francis.)
6. Restore the Catholic Guilds [No. 35]
7. Special care for the formation & education of Youth (no precaution is too great) [No. 36]
8. A call to PRAYER [No. 37] (Blessed Virgin Mary & St. Michael... St. Joseph... Peter and Paul)

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8 They have been so effective and successful that many of their lies are accepted unquestioningly today as facts.
9 I wish the popes of the last fifty years had continued to speak this way.
10 This is what Bishop Antonio de Castro Mayer did so successfully in Campos, Brazil. It is never too late to start.
11 Consider how well we really know our faith? How we love the Church? If we are opposed to her tradition (e.g. the Traditional Rites) and our heritage, how can we love the Church? All too often Catholics speak with disgust about our past. This self-loathing is proof that Pope Leo was not heeded and is an obstacle that must be overcome if things are ever to improve in the Church.