

The Catholic Catechism on Freemasonry

Lecture Series on Freemasonry Through the Light of Catholicism

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Session Twelve – Praeclara Gratulationis Pune fois encoreubicae

The objective of this twelfth lecture is to ground the student in the focus of Pope Leo XIII's *Praeclara Gratulationis Pune fois encoreubicae*, which is primarily an Apostolic letter to call for the unity of all Christians, but also includes a direct reference about Freemasonry; calling it a great danger and threat to their unity.

CATHOLIC
CATECHISM ON
FREEMASONRY
LESSON TWELVE -
SPLENDID TOKENS OF
PUBLIC REJOICING

Praeclara Gratulationis Pune fois
encoreublicae

Historical Background of Apostolic
Exhortation

Areas of Major Contribution & Legacy

PRAECLARA GRATULATIONIS PUNE FOIS ENCOREUBLICAE

- FAST FACTS, HISTORICAL CONTEXT, AREAS OF CONCERN

- **Author:** Pope Leo XIII (1878 – 1903)
- **Promulgated:** 1894
- **Purpose:** Appointed Bishop of Perugia, Italy in 1844 by Pope Gregory XVI, Pope Leo XIII found the occasion of his Episcopal Jubilee and what he calls “the remarkable devotion of the Spanish Nation” a motivation to write his Apostolic letter Praeclara Gratulationis Pune fois encoreublicae, which was a very passionate call for all Christians abandon their divisions with Apostolic See of Rome and to come back into union with the Roman Pontiff. To produce a document on the very subject was the intent of the First Vatican Council (1869 – 1870) before it was prematurely closed due to the Franco-Prussian War.
- The deep-seated pain that Leo XIII has for the disunity of the Church is evident throughout this lengthy Apostolic letter. While he recognizes the various causes of the divisions of the Eastern Churches and the Protestants, he does not believe those reasons outweigh the call of Jesus’ prayer that “that they all may be one, as Thou Father in Me, and I in Thee.”

PRAECLARA GRATULATIONIS PUNE FOIS ENCOREUBLICAE

- FAST FACTS, HISTORICAL CONTEXT, AREAS OF CONCERN, CONTRIBUTION & LEGACY

- A little past halfway into this Apostolic call of unity for Christians, Leo XIII warns his brethren that Freemasonry is a great danger and a threat to their unity.
- Pope Leo XIII's insertion here into Praeclara Gratulationis Pune fois encoreublicae was his final and most concise commentary about the continuity of the Catholic prohibition against Freemasonry, how the Masonic sects plot against the Catholic Church, and why the spirit of Freemasonry is a danger and threat to all Christian people.
- Altogether, this insertion is merely a recapitulation of things that Leo XIII had written in his previous encyclicals, but he does note here how the spirit of Freemasonry had essentially taken over France and Italy. According to Dell'alto dell'Apostolico Seggio, Custodi di Quella Fede, and Inimica Vis, the faithful had been made well aware concerning the attempts of Masonic infiltration in Italy, but in France, where Continental Freemasonry was the strongest and had infiltrated government, society, and the Church most significantly, was not a focus of Leo XIII.

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Session Thirteen – The Epoch of Indifferentism

The objective of this thirteenth lecture is to ground the student in what the Church has taught about Freemasonry for the last 100 years has been in continuity with the dogma, despite all the forces that were aligned to make the Masonic principle of indifferentism the new dogma of the Catholic Church.