

# Freemasonry: The Encyclical Letter Humanus Genus (April 20, 1884)

In the late 19th century, Freemasonry emerged as a significant force in European society. The movement, which had its roots in the Enlightenment, advocated for individual liberty, equality, and fraternity, and it quickly gained popularity among intellectuals and the upper classes.



## Freemasonry: Encyclical Letter Humanus Genus, April 20, 1884.

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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However, the Catholic Church viewed Freemasonry with suspicion and concern. The Church saw Freemasonry as a threat to its authority and teachings, particularly because of its secrecy and its alleged anti-clericalism.

In response to the growing influence of Freemasonry, Pope Leo XIII issued the encyclical letter Humanus Genus on April 20, 1884. The encyclical

condemned Freemasonry as a "naturalist sect" that was hostile to the Catholic Church and its teachings.

Humanus Genus accused Freemasons of being responsible for the rise of anti-clericalism and the spread of secularism. The encyclical also claimed that Freemasons were involved in a conspiracy to overthrow the Catholic Church and establish a new world Free Download based on naturalism and rationalism.

The encyclical had a significant impact on the Catholic Church's attitude towards Freemasonry. It led to the widespread condemnation of Freemasonry by Catholic leaders and the faithful. In some countries, such as Spain and Italy, Freemasonry was banned or severely restricted.

### **The Condemnation of Freemasonry**

In Humanus Genus, Pope Leo XIII outlined a number of reasons for the Church's condemnation of Freemasonry. These included:

- Freemasonry's secrecy and its use of oaths
- Freemasonry's alleged anti-clericalism and its attacks on the Catholic Church
- Freemasonry's promotion of naturalism and its rejection of supernatural revelation
- Freemasonry's involvement in political and social movements that were opposed to the Church

Pope Leo XIII argued that these factors made Freemasonry a dangerous and subversive force that posed a threat to the Catholic Church and

society.

## The Impact of Humanus Genus

Humanus Genus had a profound impact on the relationship between the Catholic Church and Freemasonry. The encyclical led to a widespread condemnation of Freemasonry by Catholic leaders and the faithful. In some countries, such as Spain and Italy, Freemasonry was banned or severely restricted.

The encyclical also had a significant impact on the development of Freemasonry itself. In response to the Church's condemnation, many Freemasons became more secretive and cautious in their activities. The movement also became more decentralized and fragmented, as many Freemasons sought to avoid the attention of the Church.

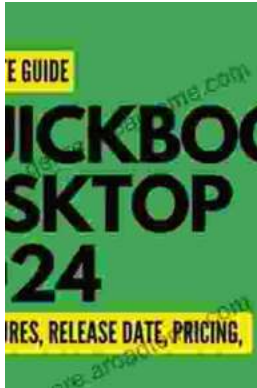
The encyclical letter Humanus Genus remains a significant document in the history of the Catholic Church's relationship with Freemasonry. The encyclical's condemnation of Freemasonry as a threat to the Church and society has shaped the Church's attitude towards the movement for over a century.



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