

Providas Romanorum

ON FREEMASONRY

Benedetto XIV

We believe it is imperative, with a new intervention of our authority, to uphold and confirm - as it requires right and serious reasons - to lay down the laws and sanctions of the Roman Pontiffs to our predecessors: not only those laws and those sanctions whose force or process of the time or of the ignorance of men we are afraid we can slow down or extinguish, but also those who have recently gained strength and full force.

1. In fact, Clement XII, Our Predecessor of Happy Memory, with His Apostolic Letter of April 28 of the Year of the Incarnation of the Lord, 1738, eighth year of his Pontificate - Letter to all the faithful and beginning in eminent - condemn always forbade certain Societies, Unions, Meetings, Meetings, Conventholes or Aggregations called by the Free Bricklayers or des Francs Macons, or otherwise named, already widely widespread in some countries and which are now increasing. He forbade all and individual Christians (under penalty of excommunication to be ipso facto without any statement, from which no one could be absolved by others, except in the point of death, other than the Roman Pontiff pro tempore) to tempt or dare to enter into such societies, to propagate them or to give them favor or recipe, to conceal them, to join them, to join or to intervene, and more, as in the same letter, more widely and more widely contained. Here is the text.

2. "Clement Bishop, servant of God's servants. To all the faithful, health and Apostolic Blessing.

Places for the will of Divine clemency, although indecent, in the eminent Apostolic See, in order to fulfill the debt of Pastoral Providence entrusted to Us, with diligence and diligence, as much as We are granted by Heaven, we turned our minds to those things through which - in closing the mistakes and vices - we preserve the integrity of the Orthodox religion, and in these difficult times the dangers of the disorder are being removed from all over the Catholic world. Already for the same public fame We know that they extend in every direction, and day-to-day support, some Societies, Unions, Meetings, Meetings, Conventholes or Aggregations commonly called the Free Bricklayers or the Francs Macons, or with other denominations called according to the variety of languages, in which, with a narrow and secret alliance, according to their Laws and Statutes, they are joined by men of any religion and sect, happy with a certain sliced appearance of natural honesty. Those Societies, with a tight oath taken on the Sacred Scriptures, and with exaggeration of severe pain, are obliged to maintain an inviolable silence about the things they do secretly. But since the nature of the crime is manifesting itself and generating the noise that denounces it, it follows that the aforesaid Societies or Convents have

produced such suspicion in the minds of the faithful, according to which honest and prudent men subscribe to those Aggregations it is the same as to blaspheme the infamy of wickedness and perversion: if they did not work iniquitously, they would not hate so much the light. Such fame has grown so considerably that these societies have already been extradited by the Secular Principles in many countries as enemies of the Kingdoms, and have been abolished.

So, meditating on the very serious damage that most of these Societies or Conventics have not only to the tranquility of the temporal Republic, but also to the spiritual health of the souls, since they do not agree in any way with either Civil Laws or Canonical ones; trained by the divine words to watch day and night as a faithful and prudent servant in charge of the Lord's family, so that this race of men will not plunder the House as thieves, nor as the foxes ruin the Vine; that it does not blemish the hearts of the simple, nor hurt the innocents; in order to close the road that, if opened, could impunity for crimes; for other righteous and rational motives known to us, with the counsel of some Venerable Our Cardinal Brothers of the Holy Roman Church, and yet still motu, with sure science, mature deliberation and with the fullness of Our Apostolic Power, we must condemn and prohibit, as with our present Constitution, to be perpetuated, condemn and prohibit the aforesaid Societies, Unions, Meetings, Meetings, Aggregations or Conventions of the Free Brickworkers or of Francs Macons or any other named name. Therefore, severely, and in virtue of holy obedience, we commend to all and individual faithful of any state, degree, condition, order, dignity or preeminence, both laymen and Chierices, both Secular and Regular, albeit worthy of special and individual mention and quotation, that no one arises or assumes under any pretext or does it appear

(Grand Lodge of British Columbia; <http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/anti-masonry/papal/providas.html>; accessed 10 October 2017. Translation from the Italian by Google translate; translate.google.com)

Notes:

- Opening refers to In eminenti and summarizes the transgressions of Masonry and the penalties for the faithful if involved.
- Refers to Free Bricklayers (translation issue?) and Francs Macons
- Essentially repeats the previous Bull but with stricter language

Notes from QC Book:

- The issues with FM
 - Men of “every religion” being associated together threatens the purity of the RCC
 - Secrecy
 - Oath is interpreted to give a FM the ability/ right to shield themselves from interrogation by lawful authorities.
 - Other Kingdoms have already prohibited FM

- Allegedly, “These societies were of ill repute among wise and virtuous men and in their judgments all who joined them incurred the brand of depravity and perversion.