

The Saints and Freemasonry:

Several saints and popes viewed Freemasonry as something that distanced oneself from God and the Church. They encouraged prayer, conversion, and fidelity to Jesus and Mary rather than following secret societies.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe

In 1917, in Rome, he saw demonstrations where images of Lucifer (the devil) beating Saint Michael were shown. Leaflets claimed that Satan would reign in the Vatican.

Maximilian did not want to fight with violence. He founded the Militia of the Immaculate to pray and work for the conversion of sinners, people who did not believe like the Church, and also Freemasons. He wanted to use prayer and the help of Mary rather than force.

Saint John Vianney (the Curé of Ars)

He warned his parishioners against secret societies. He said that the secrecy and oaths of Freemasonry went against the commandments of God and the Gospel.

Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich

In her visions, she saw a "false church" or "church of darkness" built by secret groups who wanted to destroy the Catholic Church from within. She said, however, that these efforts would fail against the true Church.

Saint Pius X

He denounced the secret societies that wanted to replace the Christian religion with a purely human order (without God).

Pope Leo XIII

He was the one who wrote the most important text of the Church against Freemasonry: the encyclical *Humanum Genus* (1884).

He explained that the world is divided into two camps:

The kingdom of God (the Church) and the "kingdom of Satan." According to him, Freemasonry had become an instrument of this second kingdom. It wanted to remove Christian institutions and replace them solely with human reason, eliminating the idea of sin, the grace of God, and the authority of the Church.