

## Appendix A

# Knights of the Immaculata vs. Freemasonry's Poison

By St. Maximilian Kolbe

NOTE: In an early account of his founding of the Militia Immaculatae [*Knights of the Immaculata*], St. Maximilian Kolbe related how as a boy of about 14 he one day bowed his head to the floor while praying in the friars' choir in the Order's minor seminary in Lwów, Poland. There he made the surprising promise to the Immaculata that he would fight for her. He does not say so explicitly, but he hints that he made this promise in response to her direct request, probably in a vision or an apparition. He states that at the time he had no idea as to how he would do this.

The answer came years later, in 1917 in Rome, when the Freemasons were noisily celebrating their second centenary with bold demonstrations in the streets, proclaiming the coming destruction of the Church. These crystallized in the young student friar's mind what exactly the Immaculata wanted him to fight for, as he explains in the following article written in 1939. —Fr. Bernard Geiger, O.F.M. Conv., Translator.

Before the World War [WWI], in Rome, the capital city of Christian life, the secret society of the Freemasons was growing daily more aggressive, in spite of the fact that the

Popes very often exposed and condemned it. These Freemasons were not even afraid to march around on Giordano Bruno's anniversary, carrying black banners depicting the Archangel Michael being trodden underfoot by Satanic Lucifer, as he is called, or to flaunt Masonic insignia beneath the very windows of the Vatican. Some enraged hands dared to write such slogans as "Satan will rule on Vatican Hill, and the Pope will serve as his errand boy," and other such insults. Now these unreasoning acts of hatred toward the Church of Christ and His temporal Vicar were not the inept rantings of a few individual psychopaths, but the manner, way and plan of action deduced from the Masonic rule: Destroy all teaching about God, especially Catholic teaching.

### Destroy Catholicism by Corrupting Morals

Centers of this secret society have been established in every region. Nevertheless, in various ways they more or less openly promote one and the same thing. In their plan, they use many and various kinds of societies which, under their leadership, promote neglect of divine things and the breakdown of morality. This is because the Freemasons follow this principle above all: "*Catholicism can be overcome not by logical argument but by corrupted morals.*" [Emphasis added]. And so they overwhelm the souls of men with the kind of literature and arts that will most easily destroy a sense of chaste morals, and they foster sordid lifestyles in all phases of human life. As a result, the once-strong characters of men are weakened, families are broken up by guilt-laden hearts, and an unhealthy sorrowfulness continues to grow. When such persons are unable to shake off the miserable yoke they carry, they avoid the Church and even rise up against her. To bring help to so many unhappy persons, to stabilize innocent hearts, so that all can more easily go to the Immaculate Virgin, through whom so many graces come down to us, the *Militia Immaculatae* (Knights of the Immaculata movement) was established in Rome in 1917 in the International College of the Friars Minor Conventual.