

Freemasons have Infiltrated the Knights of Columbus

Partially adapted from the article

“John Salza: Have Freemasons Infiltrated the Knights of Columbus?”

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The story of Catholic attorney and apologist John Salza and his temporary sojourn through Freemasonry has been well-chronicled throughout the past decade. Salza has appeared on many radio (*Catholic Answers Live*, *EWTN Radio*, *Relevant Radio*) and television programs (*EWTN*, *Fatima TV*) throughout the country and the world to explain his experience and the inner workings and doctrines of Freemasonry. Salza’s interview on EWTN’s *The Abundant Life* (called “The Hidden Side of Freemasonry”) was so well-received that he was asked to do a second show on the topic (called “Why Catholics Cannot Be Masons: Round 2”). Salza has written two best-selling books on the subject called *Masonry Unmasked: An Insider Reveals the Secrets of the Lodge* (Our Sunday Visitor) and *Why Catholics Cannot Be Masons* (TAN Books). He also has an extensive Q&A on Freemasonry at his website www.scripturecatholic.com which includes the rituals of the first three degrees of Freemasonry.

In October 2011, Salza was interviewed by Most Reverend Michael J. Sheridan, Bishop of the Diocese of Colorado Springs, on the topic of Freemasonry. That interview was radio broadcast and the transcript was published in a six-part series for that diocese’s *The Catholic Herald* (see also www.scripturecatholic.com). Most recently, Salza has given lectures at Fatima conferences in Rome to explain Freemasonry’s influence within the Catholic Church which formally commenced at Vatican II as Our Lady prophesied at Quito and Fatima. In 2012, Salza is releasing a book (with co-author Robert Sungenis) that documents Freemasonry’s infiltration into the Church called *The Consecration of Russia – How Seven Popes Failed to Heed Heaven’s Command and Brought Turmoil to the Church and the World*.

After Salza left Freemasonry in 1999, he joined the Knights of Columbus. He thought joining the Knights would not only replace the fraternal camaraderie he left behind in Masonry, but more importantly would be a vehicle by which he could educate Catholics on the dangers in Masonry (which was one of the aims that Fr. McGiveny had when establishing the K of C). Salza received the three degrees of the Knights of Columbus and even became proficient in conferring the degrees. However, a number of things bothered him about the Knights of Columbus.

When offering to speak to his and other councils in the Milwaukee area about Freemasonry, Salza was repeatedly declined. He began to experience a “very oppressive spirit” within the Knights concerning the topic of Freemasonry. According to Salza, the leaders of the Knights did not want the subject addressed, especially since various councils were formally gathering with Scottish Rite Masons and Shriners, even publicly. There was a common

Mason/Knights assembly, for example, called “All Faiths Night,” which admitted that Freemasons *have* a religious faith, and that it is *not* the Faith of the Knights of Columbus.

Salza pointed out that Freemasons seek out such associations with Catholics in order to mock the Church and deceive the public about their true aims. Once an unthinkable practice, these assemblies of the Knights of Columbus and the Freemasons are now commonplace throughout the United States. And yet the Church has always condemned such public and scandalous associations. For example, in his condemnation of Freemasonry, Pope Clement XII strictly commanded Catholics never to “be present” among Masons but to say “completely clear” of any kind of association with them (*In Eminenti*, 1738). Pope Leo XIII also declared that “everyone should avoid familiarity or friendship with anyone suspected of belonging to Masonry or to affiliated groups” (*Custodi di Quella Fede*, 1892, No. 15).

Salza personally knew a “Catholic” (his name is Peter Sorce) who was both the Worshipful Master of his former lodge in Milwaukee and, at the same time, the Grand Knight of his council. These “Catholic” Masons were allowed to publicize their Masonic affiliations with impunity and receive Holy Communion in their churches, as they held official positions within the Knights and even in their own Catholic parishes, without any admonishments from Archbishop Timothy Dolan of Milwaukee (soon to be Cardinal Dolan) or their parish priests. Salza had first-hand knowledge that many of the local councils of the Knights of Columbus have been infiltrated by Masons, which caused him to leave the organization after less than two years. But Salza’s suspicions of Masonic infiltration at the highest levels of the Knights were soon to be definitively confirmed.

In February 2007, Mr. Salza was contacted by Damian Lenshek, then Assistant Director of the Knights of Columbus’ *Catholic Information Service*, about the possibility of writing a booklet on Freemasonry for its *Veritas Series*. As a former Knight who had personally experienced the Masonic presence within the Knights, Salza thought the booklet would be a great means to educate the organization about the dangers of Freemasonry. He agreed to write it on the condition that he retained all the rights to the work and that he would be granting the *Catholic Information Service* only a limited and non-exclusive license to publish the work in their *Veritas Series*. The parties agreed and Salza was offered \$650 for his work.

Salza completed the booklet and submitted it to Fr. Juan-Diego Brunetta, O.P., the General Editor and Director of *Catholic Information Service*. Fr. Brunetta was so pleased with the work that he gratuitously increased Salza’s stipend to \$1,000, which he paid before the publication. To Salza’s pleasant surprise, Fr. Brunetta also had the work submitted to William Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport, Connecticut. After Rev. Paul N. Check, Deputy Censor Librorum, issued the *Nihil Obstat*, Bishop Lori issued the *Imprimatur* and the booklet was sent to the printing press. The booklet was printed and distributed to various Catholic media outlets.

The something diabolical occurred. An unidentified source, evidently from the highest levels of the Knights of Columbus, issued a mandate to physically destroy Salza's booklet. Again, the *Catholic Information Service* had already printed and distributed the booklet to Catholic media outlets prior to its full-scale public distribution. Salza was paid, and Bishop Lori ordered "Let it be printed." But someone within the Knights of Columbus had evidently declared, "Let it not be printed. Let it be destroyed." Neither Salza nor anyone else was given any explanation for why the Knights sought to defy Bishop Lori and destroy Salza's booklet. Salza requested a copy of the booklet from the *Catholic Information Service* and was refused.

The Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) was one of the Catholic media outlets that received Salza's booklet prior to the Masonic order to destroy it. Salza, who has appeared on EWTN to record a variety of programs on apologetics topics, recorded two programs on Freemasonry for EWTN's *The Abundant Life* with Johnnette Benkovic. When Salza was at EWTN to record the second program, he learned that EWTN was contacted directly by the Knights of Columbus who *ordered* the network to return the booklet to them! (Benkovic had the completed booklet on the set of the program in anticipation of discussing it, but did not – Program 444: Why Catholics Cannot Be Masons: Round 2). While certain people within EWTN objected to the request, the request was eventually honored, presumably as an act of diplomacy, but not before copies of the booklet were made. At that time, Salza was presented with a copy of the finished booklet, which included Bishop Lori's *Imprimatur*.

The only plausible conclusion to be derived from this outrage is that Freemasons have infiltrated the Knights of Columbus at the very highest levels. The Knights, who are supposed to be defending the teachings of the Magisterium, have acted to suppress them when it comes to Freemasonry. While the suppression of Salza's booklet was a covert action by insider Masons within the K of C, the Knights also publicly defy the Church's teaching by formally assembling with Freemasons throughout the country, with little or no reaction from their bishops, and as if Catholics and Masons are able to enjoy some kind of "fraternal fellowship" of "brotherly love" with each other. These sinful assemblies between Catholics and Masonic apostates have caused the gravest of scandals and more confusion among Catholics who are already too confused by the ecumenical doings of the post-conciliar Church.

However, Masonic infiltration of the Knights of Columbus should be no surprise to informed Catholics. In 1610, Our Lady at Quito, Ecuador specifically warned that Masonry would infiltrate the Church in the twentieth century in various apparitions to Sister Marianna de Jesus Torres, and those who should speak out (the bishops) will not do so. For example, Our Lady revealed that "shortly after the middle of the twentieth century...Satan will reign almost completely by means of the Masonic sects" and "During that epoch [20th century] the Church will find herself attacked by terrible hordes of the Masonic sect...and the one who should speak

out will be silent.” In 1623, Our Lady even revealed that Catholics in the twentieth century would be seen “entering the party of Satan and becoming members of the Masonic Lodges.”¹

These are the same warnings Our Lady gave in the Third Secret of Fatima which was to be released in 1960 (the same time period She gave at Quito). This also explains why the Vatican has suppressed this part of the Fatima Secret: *Because Masons are currently occupying the Vatican*. Padre Pio, who with Pius XII’s approval, commissioned Father Luigi Villa to expose ecclesiastical Freemasonry, said “The Church is already invaded by Freemasonry...Freemasonry has already reached the Pope’s slippers” [Paul VI].² In 1996, Monsignor Mario Marini, who worked in the Vatican and was a friend of Fr. Paul Kramer’s for 35 years, revealed to Fr. Kramer: “Our hands are tied; we can do nothing because it is Masons who occupy the key positions.” Before he died, in October 2008, Marini again told Fr. Kramer: “We are under Masonic occupation.”³ Unfortunately, the once-Catholic Knights of Columbus is also under Masonic occupation, and represent a mere microcosm of the overall Masonic infiltration of the Catholic Church. This Masonic infiltration within the Church, plotted long ago by the directives of the Alta Vendita, will be defeated only when the Pope finally consecrates Russia to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart.

¹ *Chiesa Viva*, “Our Lady Condemns Masonry,” *The Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success* (Oconomowoc, WI), N 413, February 2009, pp. 14, 22.

² *Who is Father Luigi Villa?*, *The Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success*, 2010, p.6.

³ *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue 95, Summer 2010, p. 38.