



*Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem* ®  
\* *Knights of Malta* \*

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## **Chancellor's Update**

### **SOCIALISM, COMMUNISM, NIHILISM**

As people today continue to struggle through the deception and confusion around them one wonders if this scenario is new or has occurred in previous times. Over one hundred years ago Pope Leo XIII addressed these issues in his encyclical. Enclosed is a synopsis of Leo's observations reminding us of the words attributed to George Santayana, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Let us consider Leo's assessment and admonitions of December 28, 1878, as we live through Russia's errors that have spread throughout the world, and let us continue to request God's assistance.

#### **The Situation Facing Us**

A deadly plague tainting society to its very core and bringing it to extreme peril  
Defile the flesh, despise dominion and blaspheme majesty  
Withhold submission to heads of state and preach the perfect equality of all men  
Natural union of man and woman held in scorn  
Family life is slackened or held in lust  
Greed after things present attacks the rights of property  
Pretend to feel solicitous about needs and requirements of all  
Seize every effort to hold in common all that has been individually acquired  
Such view proclaimed everywhere: public meetings, booklets, and daily press  
Odium against rulers  
Civilized community troubled with anxious fears  
Started in 16<sup>th</sup> century with Reformers  
Continued by rejection of all revelation  
Subversion of supernatural order  
Enthronement of unaided reason  
Governments organized without God and His order  
Contention that authority originates from the mass of the people  
Refusal to submit to laws not passed by themselves  
God withdrawn from studies, universities, colleges, schools and public life  
Keen longing for happiness seen only in present life  
Humble people fix eager eyes on abodes and fortunes of the wealthy  
No tranquility in public or private life  
Gospel twisted and turned to suit evil meaning  
All men being equal, no honor or respect owed to public authority

#### **THE PROBLEM**

Theories of socialism  
Marriage under religious sanction lost  
Paternal authority over children slackened  
Duties of children to parents slackened  
Preach that right of property is of human invention  
Preach that no one should endure poverty meekly  
All may with impunity seize the possessions and rights of the wealthy  
End result: mankind will fall back into most abject condition of bondage  
Alternate result: society will have constant outbreaks of plunder and rapine

Jerusalem 1048-1291, Cyprus 1291-1310, Rhodes 1311-1523, Malta 1530-1798, Russia 1798-1907, U.S.A. 1908-

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## THE SOLUTION

Address...call attention to most effectual remedies to renew society and escape crisis  
Words of prophet: "Cry, cease not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet."  
Aware that Socialists, Communists, Nihilists in alliance cry out publicly  
Warnings by Clement XV and Benedict XIV about secret societies  
Pius VI condemned new philosophy of unbridled liberty and new law  
Pius VII and Leo XII excommunicated secret societies  
Pius IX warned bishops about iniquitous sects and denounced Socialism  
Gospel: equality among men consists in that all are called to being sons of God  
Gospel: each has to be judged according to same laws  
Gospel: punishments or rewards meted out according to individual deserts  
Rulers: moderation is enjoined on appetite for power  
Subjects: obedience is shown to be easy, stable and honorable  
There is no power but from God  
He that resisteth the powers resisteth the ordinance of God  
He established in civil society many orders of varying dignity, right and power  
The State should form one body of many members, all necessary for the common welfare  
Gospel to rulers of the people: a greater punishment is ready for the more mighty  
When rulers act rashly and arbitrarily, subjects may not use against them  
When no further hope, remedy is sought in Christian patience and urgent prayer to God  
When rulers sanction anything repugnant to divine and natural law: obey God rather than men  
Indissoluble union of husband and wife  
Christ made marriage an image of His own union with the Church  
Church subject to Christ  
Women subject to husbands and wives loved with faithful and constant affection  
Children obey parents  
Parents bring up children in the discipline and correction of the Lord  
Servants obey masters according to the flesh  
Masters should know that the Lord of all is in heaven  
Right of property and its disposal should remain intact and inviolate  
Unlawful to covet the goods of others  
Thieves, robbers, adulterers and idolaters are excluded from the kingdom of heaven  
Church knows that the poor represent the teaching of Christ Himself  
Church puts homes, refuges and charitable foundations for the poor under her protecting care  
The rich are commanded to give of their superfluity to the poor  
Jesus pronounced the poor to be blessed  
Church enjoins the poor to hope for the reward of eternal bliss  
Whatever is withdrawn from religion impairs the dutiful submission of the subject  
Whatever is withdrawn from religion impairs the dignity of authority  
Let State reestablish conditions and liberty needed for Church to exercise her salutary influence  
Bishops should apply with zeal to inculcate Catholic doctrine  
Bishops: children should cherish a filial love towards God and revere His sovereignty  
Bishops: all should show due submission to rulers and the laws  
Bishops: all should bridle their passions  
Bishops: uphold authority, which God has established in State and family circle  
Bishops: encourage regularity of conduct and virtuous life  
Bishops: encourage associations for laboring men and handicraftsmen under care of religion  
Catholic Church should not lend its name to Socialists  
Laborers should be content with their lot and lead a peaceful life  
Address fervent prayers to God  
Invoke patronage of Mary, Joseph and Peter and Paul

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