

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP REJECTS DONATION FROM LODGE

Knowing that the Marian home for elderly people was in dire need of money, Abercrombie Lodge decided to donate EC\$5,000.00 to them. Regrettably, the Archbishop directed the Nuns to refuse the money. A letter written to the Archbishop remains unanswered.

The Lodge recently received an e-mail from a former member of the Lodge giving the following “explanation”.

I quote “The following discussion gives some insight as to why the Archbishop might have taken the position he did in respect of the donation received from yourselves. Note, I am in no way offering an opinion on behalf of the Archbishop. Without his “blessing” it would be presumptuous to do so. During the 1970s to mid 1980s, a lot of misinformation circulated in regards to the Catholic Church acceptance of Freemasonry. For example;

1, Cardinal Franjo Seper, then prefect of the Congregation of the Faith, sent a letter dated July 19th 1974 to Cardinal John Krol which concluded, in reference to Canon 2335, that excommunication applies only to those Catholics who join associations which plot against the Church.

2. As late as October 1984, a nationally syndicated columnist for the Catholic press was assuring his readers that Catholics “may indeed hold membership in organizations, Masonic and otherwise, which are not basically anti-Catholic and do not plot against the Church”. The columnist told his readers that “direction and guidance concerning the various organizations in your locality can easily be obtained from the Chancery office of your diocese”.

These writings and others created a lot of confusion in the 1970s to mid 1980s. Many Catholics became Freemasons during the period as a consequence of the misinformation. However, Catholic teaching has since been clarified quite clearly. For instance, the Church’s position is expressed in its “Declaration on Masonic Associations” written by Cardinal Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict xxvi), approved and ordered by John Paul 11 in November 1983: It states in part: “Therefore the Church’s negative judgment in regard to Masonic associations remains unchanged, since their principals have always been considered irreconcilable with the doctrine of the Church, and therefore, membership in them remains forbidden. The faithful who enroll in Masonic associations are in a state of grave sin and may not receive Holy Communion. Local Ecclesiastical authorities do not have the faculty to pronounce a judgment on the nature of Masonic associations which may include a diminution of the above-mentioned judgment”.

Also in an APRIL 19, 1996 LETTER TO U.S. BISHOPS by Cardinal Bernard Law, he states “even though there is no longer an excommunication attached to joining organizations that plot against the faith... and even though Masonic organizations may not in particular cases plot against the faith, it would still be wrong to join them because their basic principles are irreconcilable with those of the Catholic faith”.

Note; the emphasis now is on the Craft's "basic principles" being "irreconcilable" to that of the Catholic Church and not on the Craft plotting against the Church. If interested, you can find additional information at the following;

<http://showcase.netins.net/web/clearinglight/masons.html>.

To their credit, Masons are responsible for many good works of Charity and should be commended. But this charity, in so far as the Church is concerned, should be practiced within a framework of "basic principles" that are "reconcilable" with the doctrine of the Church.

Thus, it is highly unlikely that the Archdiocese of Castries, or any of its subsidiaries, or any other properly informed Catholic diocese for that matter, would be permitted to receive donations from Masonic organizations.