

## The Bull Unam Sanctam 1302

### Pope Boniface VIII

*The Bull 'Unam Sanctam', in which Pope Boniface VIII asserted his rights against King Phillip the Fair of France, is a landmark in the history of the doctrine of Papal Primacy*

We are informed by the Book of the Gospels that in the power of the Church are two swords, namely the spiritual sword and **temporal** (related to worldly rather than sacred) sword. According to the Apostles, “Behold there are two swords[ Luke 22:38]”, that is to say in the Church, and the Lord did not reply to the Apostles that there were too many, but sufficient. Anyone who denies that the temporal sword is in the power of Peter has not listened to the word of God commanding Peter to “put thy sword into thy **scabbard** (a case or covering for a sword).” Both, the spiritual and temporal swords, are in the power of the Church, but the former is to be administered for the Church and the latter by the Church, the former in the hands of the priest and the latter in the hands of kings and soldiers, but at the will of the priest.

The temporal sword should be **subordinate** (inferior) to the spiritual sword; moreover, temporal activities should be subordinate to spiritual activities. For the apostles said, “There is no power except from God, and the things that are, are **ordained** (to establish by authority, in this case spiritual authority) of God.”

Hence, we must clearly recognize that spiritual power surpasses all temporal power. Furthermore, we declare and proclaim that it is absolutely necessary for the salvation of every human creature that all are subjected to the power of the **Roman Pontiff** (The Pope).