

## **SLAVERY USURY INDULGENCES!**

### **What about the Church's approval of slavery?"**

- The Catholic Church's stance toward racial slavery has always been condemnatory. Though there are different forms of slavery, and though many Catholics over the centuries have been involved in it, the Popes have always vigorously condemned the forcible enslaving of innocent human lives. While the Apostles did indeed tolerate the ancient form of slavery, they didn't necessarily approve of the practice. In fact, St Paul hints that Philemon should free his slave (Philemon: verse 21).

### **"What about the Church changing its teachings on usury?"**

- The Church's basic teaching in this area never changed. It still condemns the charging of excessive interest for money loaned (usury). However, as economic systems changed from barter economies to economies based on money, which could increase in value, the Church recognized a distinction between a lender taking exorbitant interest for a loan (usury) and

taking a fair return for the risk involved in making a loan.

### **"Prove that the Church did not fall into error when it sold indulgences."**

- The abuses relating to indulgences at the time of Martin Luther involved the meritorious work of almsgiving for the construction of St Peter's Basilica (a worthy condition for the granting of an indulgence); they were never sanctioned by the Church but, on the surface, one could gain that impression (hence the reforms of the Council of Trent & St Pius V abolishing all grants of indulgences in return for alms).