

Gleaning Principles Retrieved from History of Reform

- 1. Do not lay an undue burden on the People.
- 2. The People of God are authorized to make reforms (even revolutionary ones) for the sake of the Gospel and for the authentic following of the inspirations of the Holy Spirit
- 3. *Sensus fidelium*. Call for communal discernment.
- 4. Catholicity (universal) is a hallmark of authenticity.
- 5. Go to the periphery for reform and renewal. The desert—"wrestle with the noonday devil."
- 6. Continuous spiritual renewal. Anthony, you might say, was "spiritual but not religious" – at least when he started.
- 7. Charism of monasticism needs to be institutionalized. Deepening prayer of the Church.
- 8. Spiritual regeneration renewed the center (Gregorian)
- Caution: One reform (of *lay investiture*) can lead to another abuse (*clericalism and centralized power*)
 - Efforts for unity – lead to reform. Diversity in expression of dogma (Dulles)
 - Catholic content; Protestant principle. *Reformed and always reforming.*
- Caution: Fear of rapid change can paralyze the Church, grant monarchical, dictatorial power to the Center.



May the Holy Spirit breathe afresh over this chaos and inspire a new creation.

Elements of Structural Reform

- Synodal decision making (subsidiarity)
- The end of clericalism;
- Leadership of women in the church;
- Seminary education integrated with both future clergy and laity;
- Deep-seated financial transparency; a shift away from the bishop being the "sole corporation";
- Lay trusteeship (first proposed by Bishop John England of South Carolina in the 1830s);
- Screening and recommendations for the appointment of bishops by both clergy and laity
- *Your recommendation. . . .*