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.

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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.* . . .

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