

# †CALLS FOR REFORM†



*St. Ignatius Loyola was first a soldier but after a serious injury he dedicated himself to the Catholic Church in 1521. He called for reforms in the Church and formed the Jesuit order of priests. Loyola and the Jesuits brought about the **Counter-Reformation** and its needed reforms. Though the Jesuits began with only a few members, the order grew to become a major force in the Church, as evidenced by these comments Loyola made to a group of priests in 1551:*

Men, blessed be all among you for devoting your lives to God and the Holy Church. Our order of priests, the Society of Jesus or Jesuits, began in 1539 with a mere eight members and has grown now to nearly a thousand! Our order is, as you know, one of strict obedience to the Church. We Jesuits believe that the white we see is black if the Church so defines it, since our mission is to serve the Pope and his flock.

Education has become the primary tool to fulfill our mission. We have opened schools in Italy, Portugal, the Netherlands, Spain, Germany, and India. Our goal is to teach Protestants and others about the Church and its wonders. And indeed the Church is in itself a wonder of which we should be proud and to which we must remain loyal.

Of course it is true that some problems exist in the Church. The Church is a community, human beings joined in their love of God. Humans by their very nature are imperfect: sinful creatures who must pray for guidance and forgiveness. This is the task that members of our order and Church leaders are undertaking at the Council of Trent in Austria. This meeting, which began in our Lord's year of 1545, has already addressed many issues and continues to seek ways to improve and make needed reforms to help the Church and its followers.

Luther, Calvin, and others have led loyal Catholics astray by merely naming problems. Our mission as Jesuits is to solve problems. We love the Church, the pope, the bishops, the mass, our many beautiful rituals and traditions, and above all our Lord, so we work to strengthen His Church.

When we see weakness, we provide aid as needed. The Church is the center of our lives, and it is our calling to support it. We can and must do all within our power as mere men to bring the people of Europe back into the fold. Through prayer, education, and Church councils as the one at Trent, we can accomplish our mission now and long into the future.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_ Reformation Questions

1. Who was Ignatius Loyola?
2. Why did St. Ignatius Loyola think it important to stay loyal to the Catholic Church despite its problems? Be sure to cite (quote) text evidence from the reading to support your answer.
3. Write one sentence for each vocabulary word: 95 Theses, Anglican Church, indulgence, Reformation.
4. How did the printing press help to spread new ideas?
5. Look at the map on page 370. What part of Europe was mostly Lutheran?
6. Which religion was most widespread in Europe?
7. What political effect did the Reformation have on Europe?
8. Write a summary of Henry VIII's break with Rome.
9. What were some of the accomplishments of Elizabeth I?