

The Jurist 71 (2011): I

Famerée, Joseph, True or False Reform: What are the Criteria? The Reflections of Y. Congar, in: *The Jurist* 71 (2011), 7-19.

Witte, Henk, Reform with the Help of Juxtapositions: A Challenge to the Interpretation of the Documents of Vatican II, in: *The Jurist* 71 (2011), 20-34.

Clifford, Catherine E., Reform and the Development of Doctrine: An Ecumenical Endeavor, in: *The Jurist* 71 (2011), 35-58.

O'Gara, Margaret, "Seeing in a New Light": From Remembering to Reforming in Ecumenical Dialogue, in: *The Jurist* 71 (2011), 59-76.

Duffy, Eugene, Processes for Communal Discernment: Diocesan Synods and Assemblies, in: *The Jurist* 71 (2011), 77-90.

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Mey, Peter de, Church Renewal and Reform in the Documents of Vatican II: History, Theology, Terminology, in: *The Jurist* 71 (2011), 369-400.

Routhier, Gilles, The Reform of the Catholic Church in the Context of a World Church, in: *The Jurist* 71 (2011), 401-421.

Green, Thomas J., Selected Legislative Structures in Service of Ecclesial Reform, in: *The Jurist* 71 (2011), 422-449.

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

This issue of *The Jurist* is divided into three parts. First it contains a series of essays by members of the Peter and Paul Seminar on the general theme: "Conversion and Reform in View of the Unity of the Church." Secondly, it includes a number of essays on various themes of legal-pastoral interest. Finally it contains a number of book reviews on topics of theological-canonical-historical interest.

Readers of *The Jurist* are undoubtedly familiar with the work of members of the Peter and Paul Seminar which has appeared in various issues over the past decade. The Seminar initiated by Ladislav Orsy, S.J. in 1998 has been especially concerned with examining the implementation of the theological teachings of Vatican II in the life of the Church and its law. A key Seminar goal has been enhancing the Church's exercise of its three-fold mission by connecting more closely the conciliar vision of the Church and the provisions of church law. To achieve this purpose the Seminar has periodically brought together theologians, canonists, and historians among others to explore various legal-pastoral implications of that vision.¹

Over the years the Seminar has systematically addressed various structural concerns in the Church. For example, initially it explored different implications of collegiality at various levels of ecclesial life: universal, regional, and diocesan.² Subsequently it examined varied aspects of the theme of the local church and synodality with special emphasis on the role of the diocesan bishop especially in his varied relationships within that church.³

As the Seminar members reflected on various theological-canonical issues with profound ecclesial implications, several things became clear. Vatican II highlighted the importance of an *aggiornamento* regarding our understanding of the Church itself, of the Church in the world, and of the Church especially in its relationship to other Christians. The council fa-

¹ For a particularly thoughtful overview of the origins and purposes of the Peter and Paul Seminar, see Myriam Wijlens, "'Peter and Paul Seminar': A Follow-up by Theologians and Canon Lawyers to the Groupe des Dombes' Publication *For the Conversion of the Churches*," *The Jurist* 64 (2004) 6-20. One issue of *The Jurist* which contained various theological-canonical articles by Peter and Paul Seminar members rather than examining one overarching topic was volume 69 (2009) 329-468.

² See *The Jurist* 64 (2004) 1-383.

³ See *ibid.*, 68 (2008) 321-496; 69 (2009) 1-169.

thers experienced a conversion and hence were able to take significant steps in fostering ecclesial reform in various areas. Responding to the continuing call for such reform today requires a continuing conversion by all the faithful and by the Church as a whole. Otherwise structural reforms, however impressive, will have little long-term impact on the Church's mission.

Such concerns prompted Dr. Myriam Wijlens, to arrange for an interdisciplinary conference on "Conversion and Reform in View of the Unity of the Church" at the University of Erfurt, Germany. Dr. Wijlens, one of the Seminar's original participants, holds the chair of canon law in the Faculty of Theology at Erfurt. The conference held on January 29–31, 2009 was intended to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the calling of Vatican II by John XXIII and the twenty fifth anniversary of the promulgation of the Latin code. Among the key questions addressed by the conference were the meaning of conversion and reform, individual and group conversion, the criteria for judging true and false reform, and the role of canonical structures in fostering such reform.

This issue of *The Jurist* contains five essays on themes considered in Erfurt, most of whose authors were present at the conference.⁴ Joseph Famerée (Louvain) examines the criteria for discerning true from false reform especially as articulated by Yves Congar. Henk Witte (Tilburg) considers reform with the help of juxtapositions in official documents and sees them as a challenge to interpretation. Two essays have particularly significant ecumenical overtones. Catherine Clifford (Ottawa) focuses on the influence of ecumenical dialogues on doctrinal and canonical development. Her experience with the Catholic-Lutheran dialogue prompts Margaret O'Gara (Toronto) to highlight the importance of revisiting once divisive questions and condemnations among the churches. For seeing that history in a new light can often foster ecumenical rapprochement. Finally Eugene Duffy (Limerick) explores diocesan synods and other assemblies as processes for communal discernment that can be very valuable in fostering ecclesial reform.⁵

⁴ The editor is especially grateful to Dr. Wijlens not only for organizing the conference but also for assisting him regularly throughout the process of preparing the various Erfurt-inspired essays for publication.

⁵ The next issue of *The Jurist* will feature four other Peter and Paul Seminar essays on ecclesial reform in the context of a world church, the significance of the *Ecclesia semper reformanda* maxim, conversion as a prerequisite for canonical reform, and the significance of various legislative processes for church reform.

After the aforementioned Peter and Paul Seminar articles, this issue features five other canonical essays on educational, procedural, ecumenical, and Eastern canonical revision themes. Sean Sheridan discusses the teaching of *Gaudium et spes* on evangelization and especially its impact on the apostolic constitution *Ex corde Ecclesiae*. William Daniel examines different aspects of the institute of nullity of a sentence based on a denial of the right of defense. The editor explores various aspects of the revised May 2010 norms on adjudicating cases involving the most serious delicts which are reserved to the CDF. This is especially, if not exclusively, pertinent to the delict of clerical sexual abuse of minors. Duane Galles provides an analysis of various provisions of the November 2009 apostolic constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus* on the corporate reception of certain Anglicans into full communion. He also analyzes pertinent parts of the accompanying CDF complementary norms. Finally Jobe Abbass considers various gaps in the way the Eastern code commission journal *Nuntia* has reported the legislative history of certain Eastern canons.

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

The second part of this issue of *The Jurist* continues the publication of a series of essays by members of the Peter and Paul Seminar on the general theme: "Conversion and Reform in View of the Unity of the Church." Five such essays were published in the prior issue of *The Jurist*.¹ This issue contains a paper by Peter de Mey on the history, theology, and terminology of church renewal and reform as central realities in the documents of Vatican II. Gilles Routhier views the reform of the Church, its life, its practices, and its institutional forms in terms of two fundamental realities: the proclamation of the gospel and the unity of a world Church. Finally the Editor analyzes various legislative structures such as particular councils, episcopal conferences, and diocesan synods and their relevance to conversion and reform in view of church unity.

¹ See the essays by Famerée, Witte, Clifford, O'Gara, and Duffy in *The Jurist* 71 (2011) 7–90. For some brief comments on the Peter and Paul seminar, see "Editor's Introduction," *ibid.*, 1–3.