Catholic Reformation Essay, Research Paper

Modern Catholic writers, being no longer able to deny entirely the corruption of the Church which led to the Reformation, claim that the Popes detected such evil as there was and effected a complete internal reform independently of any pressure of Protestantism. It is one of the most bold or daring of the myths they impose upon their people under cover of their censorship. The names in the Myth, do not show up at all in history. The facts show that these few men began to draw up lists of the necessary reforms in 1497, but the Court of Cardinals refused to elect a reform-Pope until 1555, when half of Europe was in rebellion against the Papacy, and Rome itself had been fearfully ravaged and impoverished by the armies of the Catholic Emperor (1527). To that date every Pope was actually vicious or had merely outlived his notorious vices, and the Court and the body of the clergy remained extraordinarily corrupt. A strict Pope then ruled for four years, to be followed by a man of so low a character, Pius IV, that the evil elements immediately awakened once more. After six years of this, Rome endured for five years the truculent puritanism of Pius V, and, after his death, vice had again thirteen years of licence (1572-85) under Gregory XIII. Sixtus V next imposed five years of rigour upon Rome, which cursed his nepotism and his cruelty, and the Counter-Reformation was then over. It had consisted of fourteen or fifteen years’ temporary suppression of certain vices and ended in futility. Too much of Europe was now anti-Papal to permit the flaunting licence of the golden days, and the treasury had sunk by three-fourths or more, but the city and Italy again became very corrupt.

Yes I do believe that the Counter Reformation was a success, Counter-Reformation denotes the period of Catholic revival from the pontificate of Pope Plus IV in 1560 to the close of the Thirty Years’ War, 1648. So therefor since it was a revival, it had to be a success. The name, though long in use among Protestant historians, has only recently been introduced into Catholic handbooks. The consequence is that it already has a meaning and an application, for which a word with a different flow should perhaps have been chosen.