**Ignatius Loyola & The Jesuits**

Ignatius Loyola, a Spanish soldier, founded the Society of Jesus in Paris in the 16th century. Known as Jesuits, the order's members were linked to the pope in Rome rather than to any national setting. They sought the salvation and perfection of every individual and concentrated their energies on foreign missions, university education, secular business, and sometimes politics. The development of the Society of Jesus was one of the most important elements of the Catholic Reformation. Intensely dedicated to the renewal of all they admired in the Catholic tradition, the Jesuits spread their spiritual and intellectual discipline around the world.

1. In what areas did the Jesuits focus their energies?
2. How could focusing on these areas help to reform the corruption that had plagued the Catholic Church?

Loyola, a former soldier, founded the order in 1534, but it was canonically [officially] established by Pope Paul III in 1540. Though the origins of the order were linked in some ways to the Protestant Reformation, Loyola's primary concern was to reform the Catholic Church from the inside by promoting a more rigorous devotion to Christian doctrine. By 1550, however, the order had adopted an anti-Protestant stance, and its official motto became "For the Greater Glory of God." As an ex-soldier, Loyola believed in strict discipline and established austere rules for his followers. Yet the Jesuits also benefited from several important innovations, including the elimination of many medieval practices like obligatory penances, fasts, and the need for a particular uniform. Authority in the order was highly centralized and went all the way to the pope. Men hoping to join the order had to practice for an unusually long period of probation (an average of 10 years) before taking their final vows, and there was an emphasis not only on obedience but on flexibility as well.

1. How did the criteria for becoming a Jesuit help to insure that men joining the order were truly dedicated to Catholicism?
2. How can the establishment of the Jesuits be seen as a reaction to the Protestant Reformation?

From the outset, the order dedicated itself to education and scholarship as the center of its intellectual and spiritual activity. The Jesuits quickly became associated with institutions of higher learning and often acted as educators or advisers to influential sectors of society. The order was also very quick to establish themselves in the foreign mission field. Even before the death of Loyola, over 1,000 Jesuits were at work in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Another characteristic of the Jesuits that engendered suspicion was the extension of their work in apparently secular business. Although each brother took a personal vow of poverty and chastity, the Jesuits engaged in corporate economic activity to sustain the order and spread their faith. In Latin America, for example, the Jesuits administered countless agricultural estates where labor was performed by African slaves or indigenous peoples. Such activities were acceptable to the order as long as they contributed to the salvation and perfection of every individual. The Jesuits' business endeavors were often extremely successful due to their training and dedication of purpose.

1. Why do you think that the Jesuits dedicated themselves to education and scholarship?
2. Where did Jesuits do missionary work? Why do you think that missionary work was an important component of their efforts?
3. What types of economic activity did the Jesuits engage in? How was the money that they earned used? How is this different from the way the money was by the church before the Reformation?

Overall would you say that the activities of the Jesuits could better be characterized as “Catholic Reformation” –an effort on behalf of Catholics to reform their church and practices, or “Counter Reformation” –a reaction to the teachings and beliefs of the Protestant church? Support your answer with specific examples from the reading.

**Adapted from the Decrees of the Council of Trent in 1566.**

1. If anyone saith, that faith alone is enough for salvation; let him be condemned.
2. If anyone saith, that man is truly absolved; let him be condemned.
3. If anyone saith, that a man is predestined for salvation, let him be condemned.
4. If anyone saith, that nothing besides faith is command in the Gospel; that other things neither commanded nor prohibited, let him be condemned.
5. If anyone saith, that the sacraments are not necessary for salvation and that men obtain salvation through faith alone, let him be condemned.
6. It is to be desired that all who become bishops should understand what portions of their income should be devoted to their own maintenance and to comprehend that they are called to the office of bishop not for riches or luxury, but to the labors and cares for
7. Which decrees could be used to condemn the teachings of Zwingli?
8. Which of Luther’s ideas were criticized by the Council of Trent?
9. Which of Calvin’s ideas were criticized by the Council of Trent?
10. What practice of the Catholic Church could the 6th item on the list be a reaction to?
11. Based on these decrees, what do you think the future held in store for relations between Catholics and Protestants?

Check off the following statements that can be inferred from the information in the selection.

1. The Catholic Church would not tolerate Protestant beliefs.
2. Martin Luther convinced the Catholic Church to change its basic beliefs.
3. After the Reformation, the Catholic Church remained confident of the truth of its beliefs.
4. The Catholic Church condemned the abolition of Mass and Confession
5. The Council of Trent agreed to change the organization of the Catholic Church.
6. The Council of Trent did desire to fix what they saw as corrupt in the Catholic Church

In what ways was the Council of Trent an example of “Counter Reformation”–a reaction to the teachings of Protestants? In what ways was the Council of Trent an example of “Catholic Reformation”-an attempt to address the corruption that had undermined the true mission of Catholic Church?