

THE SOCIETY FOR ECUMENICAL STUDIES

True and False Reform in the Church [1968], Yves Congar OP. New translation by Paul Philibert, Collegeville, Liturgical Press, 2011

A review by Donald Norwood

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This is a new edition of a great book, which first appeared in 1950 and got Congar into trouble because he was trying too hard to understand Protestants and hinting that Rome might need reforming. He was silenced for a while and banished to Cambridge, a fate that some might think was worse than death. Fortunately good Pope John XXIII read his book and by the time of Vatican II Congar was back in favour and busy helping Rome engage in a renewal that at the time was so radical that it filled Protestants like Barth with both delight and surprise. Congar died in 1995. This book will help keep his memory alive. Catholics like Congar were never more needed than today.