

“.....Theologians Richard McCormick and Richard McBrien, in their analysis of the 1990 Vatican Instruction on the Ecclesial Vocation of the Theologian, provide a further disturbing insight into how Rome is using secrecy to control and orientate the Church back to its pre-Vatican II structures. Theological reflection according to the Instruction is to be the preserve of a select few. This, McCormick and McBrien argue, is contrary to Vatican II. The Council recognized that all believers can contribute to theological reflection and progress when it expressed the hope that lay people, not just clerics, be well informed in the sacred sciences. It then said: ‘In order that such persons may fulfill their proper function, let it be recognized that all the faithful, clerical and lay, possess a lawful freedom of inquiry and of thought, and the freedom to express their minds humbly and courageously about those matters in which they enjoy competence.’ This encouragement to all within the Church to ponder theologically is a consequence of the Council’s respect for the Church as the people of God; all by baptism journey with Christ, enjoy the presence of the Holy Spirit, and have the right to share that experience for the support and growth of the Church.....”

(REFOUNDING THE CHURCH: Dissent for Leadership. Gerald A. Arbuckle SM. Page 76)