



· the reformer ·

Be a reformer of the 15th century!

START

Reform monastic observance

You reform piety by replicating the model of the early church in the present day.

You restore prosperity, such as in the German monastery of Heiningen, where, before your reform, the community sometimes had to eat on the floor in order to benefit from the light of the fire, because they could not afford candles.

Be prepared to face resistance: While you inspect the property of a monastery, a nun locks you up in a cellar in protest of your reform. You:

1. shout for help
2. pray for God's intervention
3. break down the door

Reform chant

Emphasise the importance of moderation in chant to evoke dignity and to stir up devotion.



Flash the answer!

Answer the doubts of the communities:
A monk tells you that he is too old to learn new chants.
You answer that:

1. you agree and he is not obliged to learn them
2. he has to leave the monastery
3. you did not ask about his age, but about the free will to obey

Ensure the continuity of your reforms

Replace the old chant books with new ones.

Make sure that every book has the exact same texts and punctuation to ensure uniformity of chant.

Explain why it is important to achieve uniformity:

1. to implement a long-lasting, exemplary church, based on the communal life of the Apostles
2. to shape the identity of your community
3. to live in one heart and soul in God



Teach how to sing without excessive lengthening and without excessive haste.

Congratulations!

You can now record your successful past reforms in a book for future generations to follow.

FINISH

Abstract

The Congregation of Windesheim, a religious assembly of Augustinian canons founded in the late fourteenth century, promoted a renewed, more genuine monastic life. Driven by the will **to restore the purity of the early church**, the Congregation conducted several reforms in order to implement their understanding of faith. Johannes Busch (whose footsteps you can follow above) was a major reformer who justified his actions in several ways, such as by placing them in the continuity of the Apostles. The **unity of spirit and heart the Apostles experienced** was re-created by the implementation of uniform liturgical practices. Chant was an essential component of these practices and the Windesheim reform particularly insisted on uniformity of chant, because it shaped

a specific Windesheim aural identity. While reforming monastic life was a means to replicate the model of the early church in the present day, this model does not seem to have been used as **a model of the "past"**. It was rather used to restore the earlier – and superior – state of the church in a perspective focused on the present day and on the implementation of a lasting, exemplary church, that is, **turned firmly towards the future.**

Bibliography

Champion, *The Fullness of Time* (2017); Hascher-Burger, *Windesheimer Reform und liturgische Erneuerung* (2013); Lesser, *Johannes Busch: Chronist der Devotio Moderna* (2005).