The Reformation

Sir, – I enjoyed Eamon Duffy’s thought-provoking essay on The Reformation (Commentary, February 10) and particularly his generally positive reassessment of the writings of the late John Bossy, for which I share his admiration. However, I was dismayed to find my own work on the French Catholic Reform trav­
yest by that familiar scholarly sin, the single quotation taken out of con­
text. The sentence from Communities of Belief that he cites refers to the formal positions taken by French Catholic authors in the seventeenth

century. The following paragraph emphasizes that ‘popular beliefs and practices proved immensely resilient, the combined power of church and state very weak at very peak’ (paragraph 5, page 38). Several other essays in that volume any reader will agree that the enormous gulf between theory and practice is repeatedly stressed, along­
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