

# A Pilgrim People

## *The Story of Our Church*

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**Early Church Growth & Threats**

**(30-312 AD)**

**Rapid Growth & Great Councils**

**(313-450 AD)**

**Rise of Christendom**

**(450-1050 AD)**

**High Medieval Church**

**(1050-1300 AD)**

**Renaissance to Reformation**

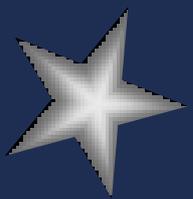
**(1300-1600 AD)**

**Worldwide Growth**

**(<1500-1800 AD)**

**Revolution to Renewal**

**(1600-2000 AD)**



# Presentation Outline

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- **Medieval Society and Architecture**
- **Problems in Medieval Church**
- **Islamic Expansion and Crusades**
- **13<sup>th</sup> Century**
  - **“Golden Age of the Church”**
  - **The Mendicants**



# Medieval Society

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- It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.
- Virtue and corruption
- Development of comprehensive civil and legal system and bureaucracy
- Selfless giving and overbearing arrogance
- Church not immune from making mistakes
- **Video:** *Introducing the Medieval Church*







# Medieval Society

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- **Medieval life was principally religious**
  - Not a secular age like now in the West
  - Religion integral to society
- **World where struggle between good & evil played out in accord with God's Will**
  - Every deed and event in one's life fulfilled some small part of God's plan for the universe
  - Life about gaining salvation to heaven



# Medieval Society

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- “The history of the Western church in the Middle Ages is the history of the most elaborate and thoroughly integrated system of religious thought and practice the world has ever seen.”
- “The identification of the church with the whole of organized society is the fundamental feature which distinguishes the Middle Ages from earlier and later periods of history.”
  - From *The Middle Ages* by R. W. Southern



# Medieval Society

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- “During the whole of the medieval period there was in Rome a single spiritual and temporal authority exercising powers which in the end exceeded those that had ever lain within the grasp of a Roman Emperor.”
- “The commanding position of the papacy gives the Middle Ages its unity.”
  - From *The Middle Ages* by R. W. Southern
- However there were also strong pressures from secular rulers



# Medieval Society

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- “For three centuries from about 750 to 1050, the kings exercised an authority which (they were encouraged to think) gave them a sacred character and set them above bishops and priests in the government of the Christian community. In 775, one of Charlemagne’s advisors wrote to him:

Always remember, my king, that you are the deputy of God, your King. You are set to guard and rule all His members, and you must render an account for them on the day of Judgment.”

— From *The Middle Ages* by R. W. Southern



# Medieval Society

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- Since its inception the Church was at different times protected and threatened by secular rulers
- “Sometimes it responded in the spirit of the Gospel and sometimes in the ways of the world. Sometimes the popes acted like threatened secular rulers rather than like spiritual leaders.”
  - From *People of God* by Anthony Gilles



# Medieval Society

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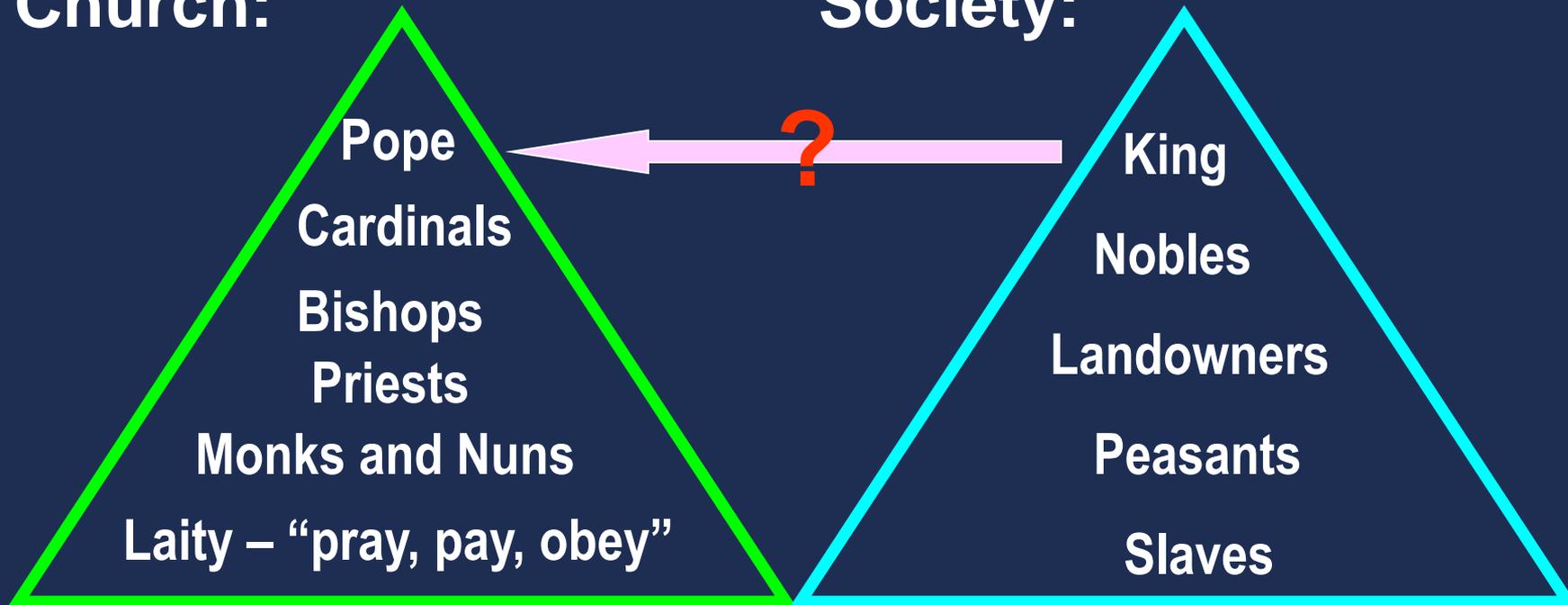
- **Ordinary believers' piety:**
  - **Sunday Mass (in Latin)**
    - People remote, rarely received communion
    - Glimpse of consecrated Host during elevation
  - **Daily Mass**
    - Wealthy could afford priest all week long
    - During week, most priests worked fields or begged
  - **Devotion to Mary and the Saints**
    - Rosary favorite lay devotion
    - Uneducated could also recite
    - Exaggerated trade in relics (esp. after Crusades)

# Medieval Society

- Feudalism: Relationships in Church and society based on a rigid hierarchical structure

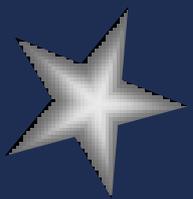
- Church:

Society:



- Everyone submitted to authority





# Medieval Architecture

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- Housing the world's greatest treasure
- God dwells not only in Heaven but in the reserved sacrament – the Body of Christ – the holiest thing on earth
- Natural for believers to build magnificent cathedrals for the world's greatest treasure
- **Video:** *Magnificent Cathedrals*





# Medieval Architecture

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- **Cathedral from Latin word “cathedra” meaning seat or chair**
  - Official “seat” or throne of local bishop
  - Headquarters of diocesan bureaucracy
- **Before 12th century, churches were built in Romanesque style**
  - Style of architecture developed in Italy
  - Characterized by decorative ornamentation



# Medieval Architecture

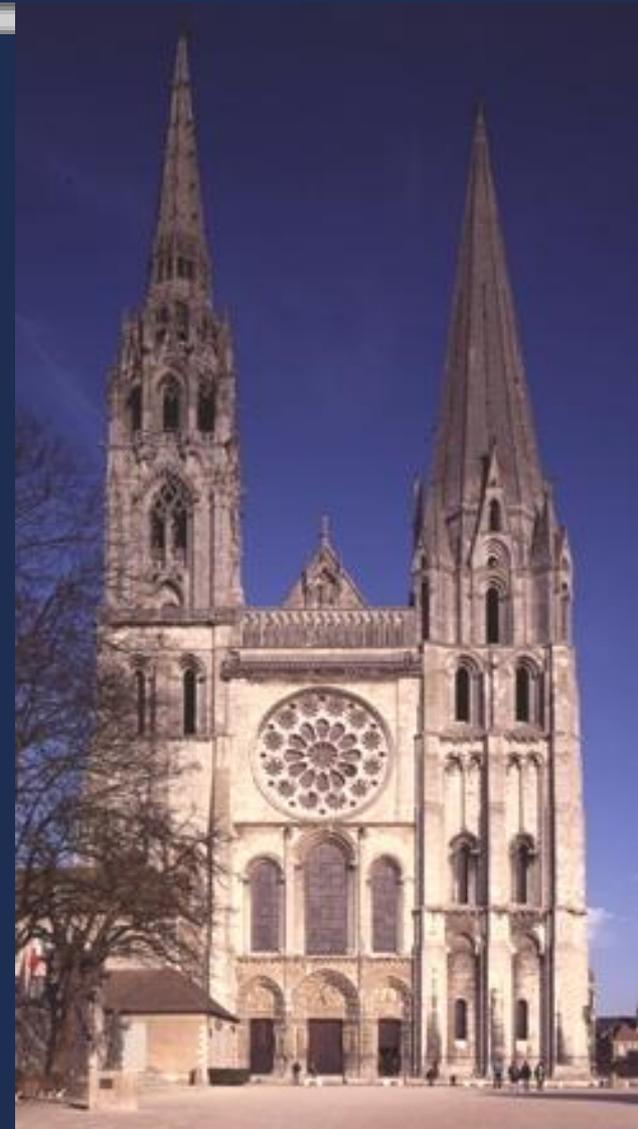
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- During High Middle Ages, developed a new style
  - Gothic style of church architecture
  - Developed in northern France
  - Allowed for higher walls and expanded space for windows

# Medieval Architecture

- Gothic Style
  - Pointed Arches
  - Verticality
  - Flying Buttresses
  - Ribbed Vaulting
  - Distinctive Rose Window





# Problems in Medieval Church

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- In Christian teaching, Jesus Christ is God incarnate (God become a man)
- Therefore, isn't it reasonable to expect that the Church instituted by Christ should also be perfect in its practice?
- History tells a different story
- **Video:** *Problems in the Church*







# Problems in Medieval Church

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Seventh  
through  
Eleventh  
Centuries



- **Simony**
  - Payment of money to be appointed to a Church office
- **Celibate priests sometimes lacked commitment to virtue of chastity**



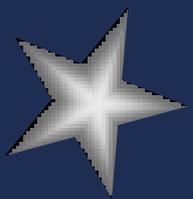
# Problems in Medieval Church

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Seventh  
through  
Eleventh  
Centuries



- **Lay investiture**
  - Practice of lay persons appointing bishops, priests, abbots, and abbesses
  - Emperors, Kings and other secular rulers wanted bishops they could control
- Since bishops also had secular power



# Problems in Medieval Church

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- “One nobleman outbid an abbot for a vacant bishop’s seat, paying today’s equivalent of over 10 million dollars and then giving it to his ten year old son, making his ten year old son bishop.”
  - From *People of God* by Anthony Gilles

# Pope Gregory VII

1073



- Election of Hildebrand as Pope Gregory VII in 1073 A.D.
- The Gregorian reform virtually eliminated simony, lay investiture, married clergy
  - Led to the height of papal influence and power

# Pope Gregory VII

1077



- Showdown with Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV
  - Henry opposed decree of Gregory's synod's against lay investiture
  - Gregory excommunicated Henry
  - Henry begged forgiveness barefoot in the snow for 3 days at Canossa
- **Video:** *Pope Gregory VII*



# Pope Gregory VII

1073



- “Thanks to the sacrifices of people like Gregory VII and the monks of the Cluniac reform, the Western Church had largely cleaned up its house.”

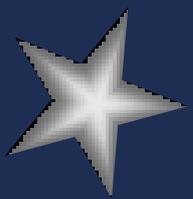
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# Origins of Clerical Celibacy

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- Originally most priests married (including St. Peter) as today in Orthodox and Protestant churches
- **Dualism**
  - Spiritual realities more noble than material
  - Flesh as prison of the soul (Manicheism?)
- Early church held virginity & celibacy in high esteem
  - Christian ascetics (St. Anthony, monks)
- Justin, Clement and other Church Fathers
  - Sexual intercourse and marriage justified only if intention was to procreate



# Origins of Clerical Celibacy

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- **Feudalism**

- Bishops also secular princes with large land holdings. The Church lost lands through inheritance.

- **Second Lateran Council (1139)**

- Definitively settled issue for Western Church

- All clerical marriages declared null and void

- **Modern ideal: freeing priest from worldly concerns**

# Islamic Expansion





# Islamic Expansion

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- 638**
- Fall of Jerusalem to Muslims left Holy Land out of Christian control
    - Uneasy peace for four centuries
- 1071**
- Seljuk Turks conquered Jerusalem
    - Banned Christians from visiting
- 1095**
- Pope Urban II called bishops together to discuss situation
    - Agreed to take back the Holy Land for pilgrims
  - **Video: Crusades**





# The Crusades

Eleventh  
Through  
Thirteenth  
Centuries



- Crusades were a Holy War to combat Muslim's own Holy War ("Jihad") of conquest & conversion
  - Former large & vibrant Christian communities in North Africa and Middle East had disappeared
- Crusader motives were:
  - Devotion to Christ, Penance
  - Free Holy Land for pilgrims
  - Love of adventure





# The Crusades

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**1099**



• **Crusade took Jerusalem**

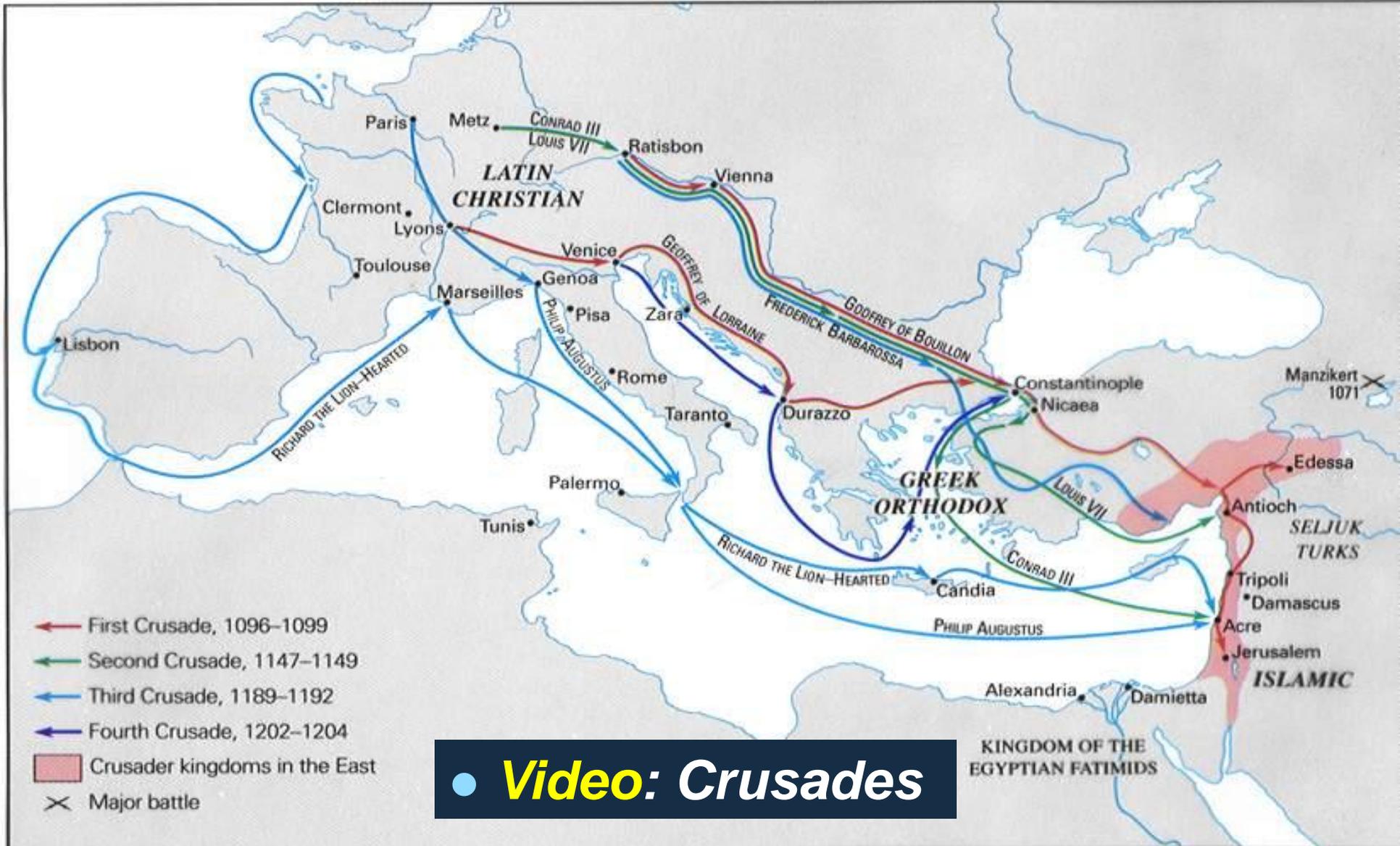
- 12,000 men under leadership of Godfrey of Bouillon, Raymond of Toulouse, Geoffrey of Lorraine
- Held for nearly 100 years
- Retaken by Saladin in 1187

Eleventh  
Through  
Thirteenth  
Centuries



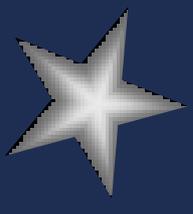
• **Four Major Crusades from 1096 to 1204**

# Four Major Crusades



● **Video: Crusades**





# Video: Example of Media Treatment of Crusades

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- **Knight's account an obvious literary exaggeration**
  - Not enough people in whole region to create ankle-deep blood in streets
- **Crusaders conformed to pre-modern standard of warfare**
  - Accepted standard: people in city who resisted belonged to victors
  - Muslim cities that surrendered kept lives and allowed to worship



# Effects of the Crusades

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Eleventh  
Through  
Thirteenth  
Centuries



- Fatal weakening of Byzantine Empire
- Vast increase in cultural horizons for many Europeans
- Stimulated Mediterranean trade
- Need to transfer large sums of money for troops and supplies led to development of banking techniques



# For Consideration

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- **The brutality of the Crusades is rightly condemned today, but it conformed to the premodern standard for warfare**
- **However, was the faith commitment of the crusaders greater than ours today?**
- **Are Western Christians today willing to suffer and die for their faith? If not, why not?**



# Golden Age of the Church

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13th  
Century



- “Golden Age of the Church”
  - “Flower of the Middle Ages”
- In every area of life, see:
  - Influence of Church
  - Advancement of culture, education, and learning
- Height of Christendom
  - Thoroughly Christian society
  - Unity of state and church 
- Peak of Universal Papal Monarchy



# Pope Innocent III

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13th  
Century



- In 1198, Elected Pope at age 37
- Very capable and effective Pope
- Strengthened & reformed Church
  - All secular rulers accepted papal authority to examine & arbitrate
    - Helped nobles obtain Magna Carta from King John of England
  - Gained control of Papal States





# The Mendicants

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13th  
Century



- Two religious groups formed that would greatly impact the Church
  - Dominicans
    - Order of Preachers
  - Franciscans
    - Order of Friars Minor





# The Mendicants

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13th  
Century



- Both groups known as “mendicant” (begging) orders:
  - Religious communities whose members
    - Live among people
    - Rely on the charity of others
    - Survive on the generosity of others
- **Video:** *Mendicant Orders*





# St. Dominic



1215 ↓

**St. Dominic (born 1170, died 1221)**

- **Opposed Albigensian Heresy**
  - Denied humanity of Christ
  - Rejected sacraments & Church authority
- **Dominic converted many back**
- **Emphasized Powerful Preaching**
  - Intellectual training
  - Witness of poor and simple lifestyle
- **Dominican Order approved by Pope Innocent III**



# St. Francis of Assisi



- St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)**
- Dissolute life as young man
  - Conversion after wounded
  - “Rebuild my Church” (wealthy)
    - Witness life of utter poverty
    - Works of charity, preaching
  - Gloried in God’s creation
  - Invent Christmas Manger Scene
    - Reverence for humanity of Jesus
  - Franciscan Order approved by Pope Innocent III

1209 ↓

# St. Thomas Aquinas



## St. Thomas Aquinas

- Born 1224, Died 1274
- Doctor of the Church
  - Chief Scholastic Theologian
- Greatest work:
  - ‘Summa Theologica’
    - ‘Summary of Theology’
- Synthesis of Reason and Faith based on
  - Aristotle
  - Church Teaching
  - Bible



# Intellectual Life

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- **After Crusades, knowledge from East to West**
- **Rise of university system in twelfth century**
  - **Based on Aristotle's inductive reasoning**
    - **Theology proceeded from God to things**
    - **Aristotle proceeded from things to God**
    - **Made non-religious way of studying world possible**
  - **Led to learning separate from theology**
    - **Specialized disciplines: Law, Medicine, Science**
    - **Renaissance and Scientific Method (next session)**
  - **Teachers and students all clergy (lay illiterate)**



# Intellectual Life

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- **Medieval Scholars – 2 “faculties” of human soul:**
  - **Will: Desire to believe (Faith)**
  - **Intellect: Desire to know (Reason)**
- **St. Thomas Aquinas believed both important**
  - **Not two separate sets of conclusions**
    - One set accepted on faith
    - Other set making sense to the mind
  - **Not Faith ‘versus’ Reason, but Faith ‘in harmony with’ Reason**
  - **Thomism became main method of learning**



# Intellectual Life

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- “There have been periods where knowledge was suppressed but Catholicism has always stood for the proposition that faith and reason can be harmonized. In other words, Catholicism does not require someone to quit thinking in order to be a Christian. That is one of the great contributions of Catholicism to world religion.”
  - From *People of God* by Anthony Gilles



# Summary

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- **The Church has not always responded in the best way to its problems**
- **Turned to secular rulers at times for protection and lost authority in spiritual matters**
- **At other times tried to be powerful in a secular way rather than a spiritual way**
- **Our history shows a mixture of high ideals and terrible corruption**
  - **Saints and sinners**





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***Comments?***



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