

Medieval Church: Height of Papal Power 1000-1300 AD



Randy Broberg
Grace Bible Church
2002

Ascendancy of the Church Over State

German Relief Showing Bishop Crowning Princes



Sicilian Fresco depicting Christ crowning a Norman King



Remember those Byzantine and Imperial Rome mosaics showing the Emperor appointing the Bishops?



The Rise of Scholasticism



Dominicans & Franciscans



950
Anselm

The East/West Schism
Anselm
Abelard

Bernard of Clairvaux
Peter Waldo
Zenith of Papal Power

Thomas Aquinas
Dante

William of Ockham
1350

The Period of Resurgence

The Gospel Penetrates Scandinavia

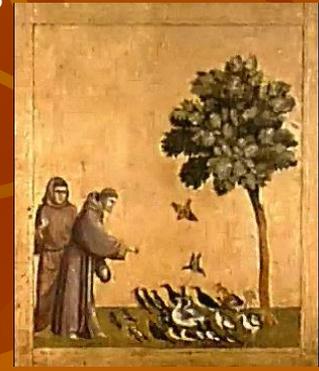
Orthodox Christianity Penetrates Russia

Albigenses

Magna Carta

Pope Innocent III

Saint Francis of Assisi



The Inquisition

The Crusades

Saint Francis

Age of Castles & Chivalry

- Professional warrior class, in the service of the lord in exchange for land and peasants
- Squire = a knight in training
- Code of Chivalry: He was supposed to show Christian humility to his peers, kindness to those beneath him, and generosity to all. Many knights could not live up to the code, or even tried.





The Laity: 1000 – 1300

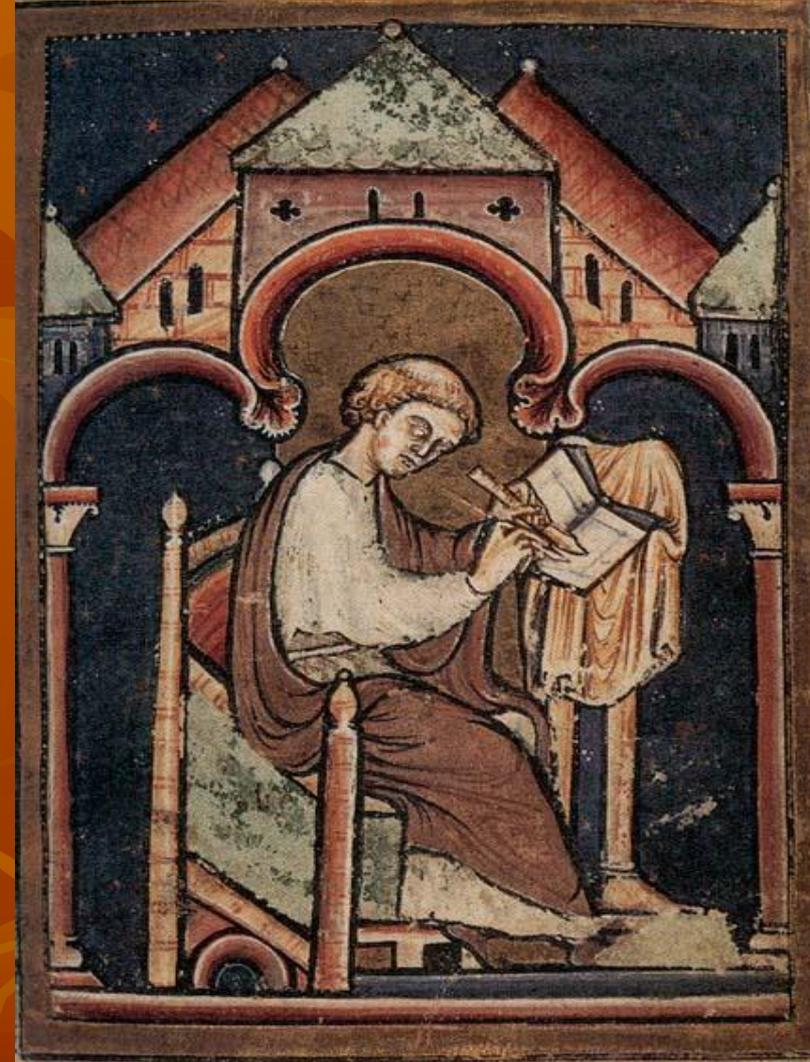
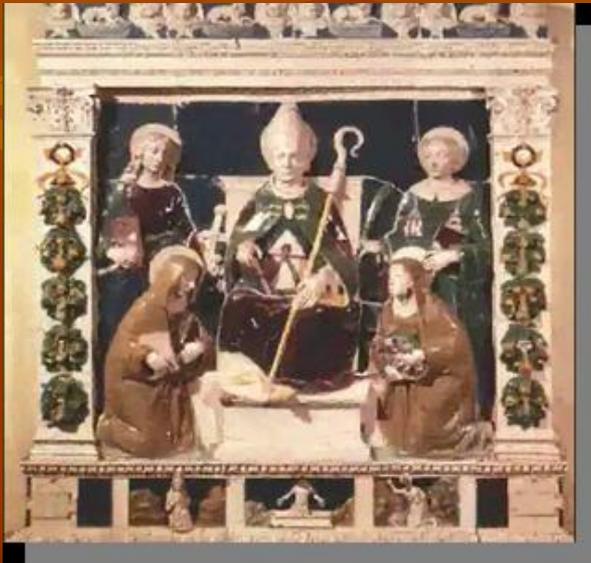
- Literacy and Learning more necessary, available to laity
- More demanding of clergy, more experimental, inquisitive in religious, legal matters
- Not all farmers in middle ages were serfs: small freeholders existed
- Number of higher status serfs and freeholders slowly increased from 1000-1300, as the European economy expanded
- Women had an important role in the working life of a family, since their help was needed.



Independent Towns

The Clergy 1000-1300

- Bishops were often feudal vassals of and owed their jobs to laymen
- Clergy Appointments not on merit
- *Nepotism*
- *Simony*: purchase of church offices
- *Nicolaitism*: clergy sometimes married or had concubines



State Over Church

Emperor Otto I

Deposes Pope John VII

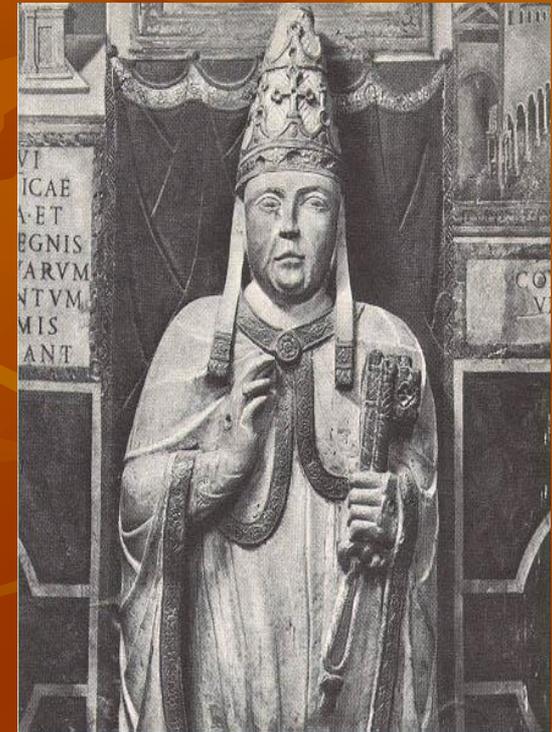


Emperor Otto I

- Elected pope at the age of 18.
- Notorious adulterer. The prestige of the papacy plummeted.
- Enemies defeated him in battle and occupied lands that belonged to the popes. John made a deal with Emperor Otto I, He pledged allegiance to Otto and crowned him emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. In return, Otto promised to recognize only John as pope. The two agreed that from then on popes would pledge themselves to the emperor.
- John regretted the deal with Otto. He tried to incite a war against Otto. Astonished at John's treachery, Otto marched back to Rome. John fled.
- Otto called a synod which tried John for adultery, incest, murder, perjury, sacrilege, and simony (selling church offices). John he wrote, "*To all the bishops-- We hear that you wish to make another pope. If you do I excommunicate you by almighty God and you have no power to ordain no one or celebrate mass.*"
- With the emperor's consent, the synod removed John from office, but John recaptured Rome and cut off the hands, ears and noses of his foes.
- A few months later, John was so severely beaten by a jealous husband for an act of adultery that he died at the age of twenty-nine.

Schism of 1054: Final Break with East

- The Eastern and Western churches had long been estranged over doctrinal issues such as the “filioque” –
- Major issue: Pope’s claim to be supreme bishop
- The Eastern Church resented the Roman enforcement of clerical celibacy and the limitation of the right of confirmation to the bishop.
- There were also geographic jurisdictional disputes between Rome and Constantinople.
- In 1054 Pope Leo IX and the patriarch of Constantinople, excommunicated each other, an event that marked the final break between the two churches.
- After the Schism, things were somewhat more friendly until destruction and sacrilege of Constantinople in 1204
- Attempts at reconciliation were made by Council of Lyons (1274), Council of Florence (1438-9), but rejected by East



The College of Cardinals 1059

- 1059 College of Cardinals became only body able to choose pope
- Prevented pope from being appointed and controlled by laymen
- duties include electing the pope, acting as his principal counselors, and aiding in governing the Roman Catholic church. Cardinals serve as officers of the Roman Curia, bishops of major dioceses, and papal envoys.
- Cardinals are successors of the bishops of the sees just outside Rome and of the patriarchal sees of the Eastern Catholic Church. Cardinal priests are the bishops of important sees around the world and are the most numerous order of cardinals.
- A red biretta and ring are symbolic of the office.



Norman Conquest of England 1066



Bridgeman Art Library



- ↳ Pope gives permission to William of Normandy to conquer England.
- ↳ 1066:
 - ↳ Battle of Stamford Bridge Saxons defeat Danes:
 - ↳ Battle of Hastings: Normans defeat Saxons
- William of Normandy appointing Lanfranc Archbishop of Canterbury in 1070.
- Lanfranc reorganizes and reforms the English church.
- 1080: Willam swears obedience to Pope Gregory VII but refuses to pay “fealty” monies

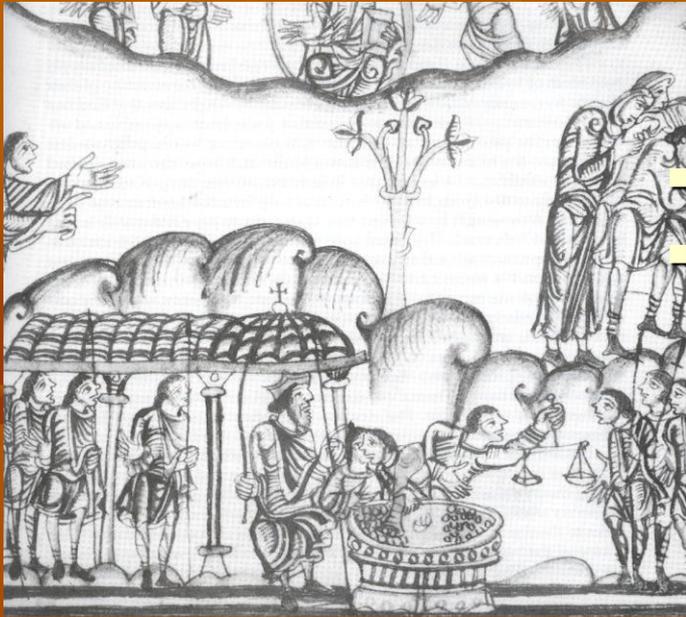
France and England and the 100 Years War



1189

- William retained his title as Duke of Normandy
- Later English Kings got more land in France
- Royal authority strong in England as a result of Norman Conquest
- Through marriage, English kings had acquired many new lands in France
- Henry II (r. 1154-1189) and Eleanor of Aquitaine
- 1190 Richard the Lionhearted King of England (and much of France)
- 1215: English king John seals the Magna Carta

Increasing Royal Power



Medieval Tax Collection

Kings believed they were appointed by God
Kings believed they had right to oversee church affairs and to appoint bishops



Emperor Otto III

- Improving Economy led to additional revenues for kings
- Scutage: English kings began getting money instead of service from vassals
- Monarchs used additional revenues to establish bureaucracies and increase control

Lay Investiture

- Bishops were often feudal vassals of laymen and were appointed by them
- Bishoprics typically included vast tracts of land and great wealth.
- Bishops often had their own armies!

Henry IV and
Abbot of
Cluny
ask help from
Matilda



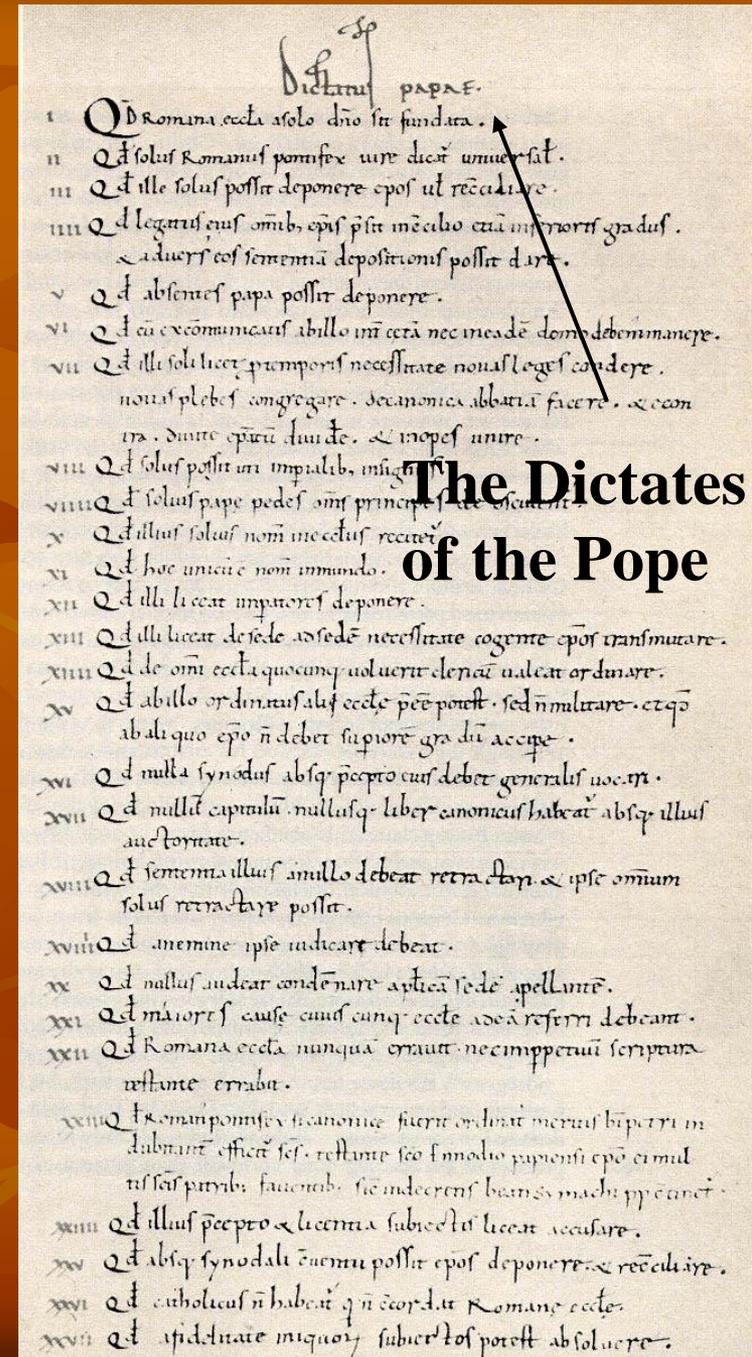
Emperor Henry IV (r. 1056-1106)

- Needed to be able to appoint bishops to keep his power
- Needed Episcopal troops to govern
- Challenged right of pope to interfere in German church
- Deposed incompetent pope
- Demonstrated power of emperor over pope
- Henry IV continued to associate with bishops excommunicated by the pope for simony
- Henry continued to try to appoint bishops



Pope Gregory VII (Hildebrand) (r. 1073-1085)

- Was civilian administrator of city of Rome
- Denied that kings had right to appoint church officials
- Held to Theocracy, temporal and spiritual power on earth under the Pope, God's "vice regent"! Kings submit to will of pope
- 1066 approved the invasion of England by William the Conqueror
- *Dictates of Pope:*
 - Church owed foundation to "God alone."
 - Pope was "alone to be called universal".
 - Pope had power over all Bishops/Patriarchs.
 - Pope's feet to be kissed by all Princes.
 - Pope had power to "depose emperors".
 - Church of Rome had never erred and never would.



Pope Gregory VII On the State of the Church in 1075



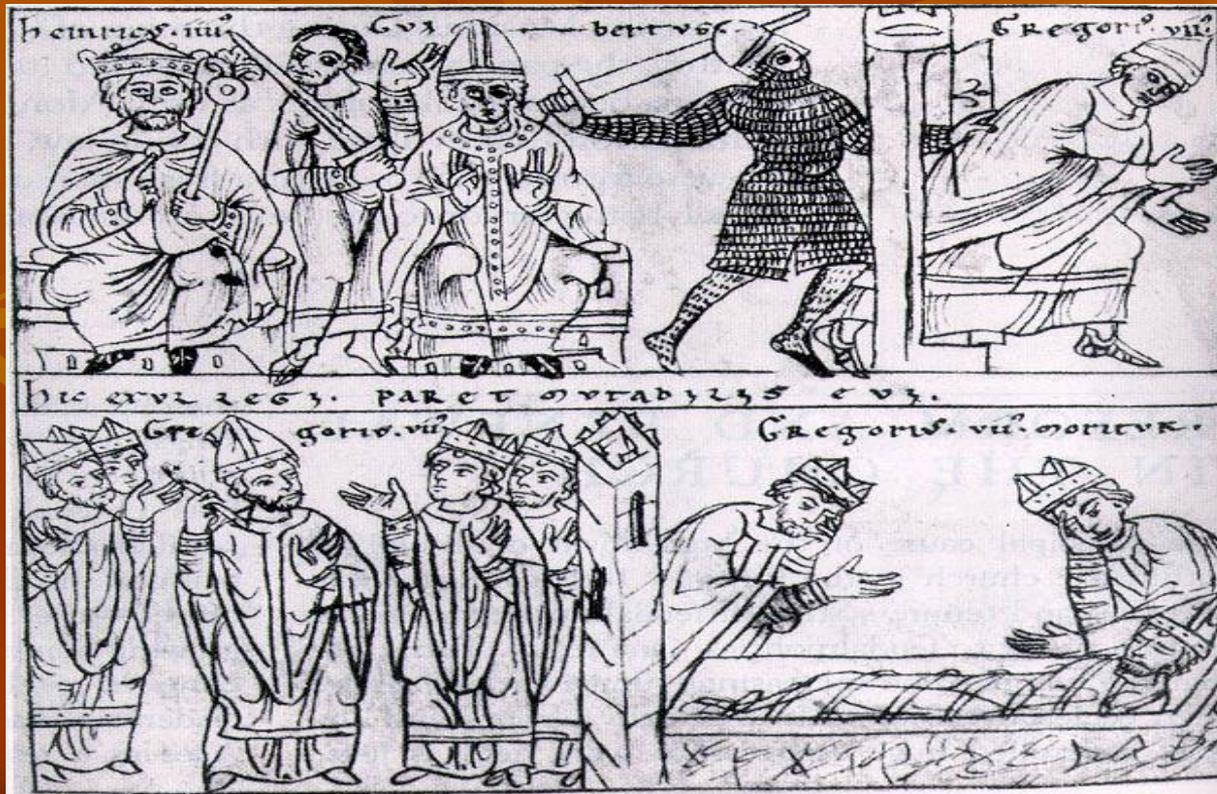
Pope Gregory VII

- "The Eastern Church has fallen away from the Faith and is now assailed on every side by infidels. Wherever I turn my eyes--to the west, to the north, or to the south--I find everywhere bishops who have obtained their office in an irregular way, whose lives and conversation are strangely at variance with their sacred calling; who go through their duties not for the love of Christ but from motives of worldly gain. There are no longer princes who set God's honor before their own selfish ends, or who allow justice to stand in the way of their ambition. . . .And those among whom I live--Romans, Lombards, and Normans--are, as I have often told them, worse than Jews or Pagans"
- (Greg. VII, Registr., 1.II, ep. xlix).

Investiture Controversy

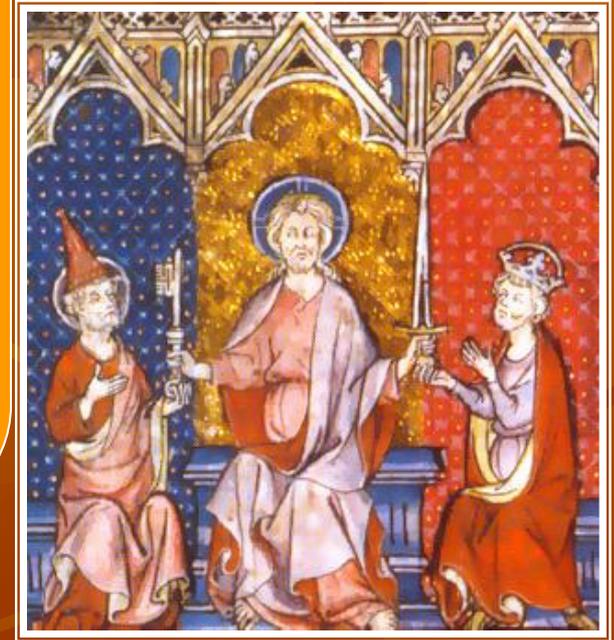
The Struggle between the papacy and the Holy Roman Emperor over the ruler's presentation of the symbols of office to churchmen.

- The Investiture Controversy demonstrated that the spiritual authority of the pope could be translated into political power
- A century and a half of weak popes ends by the middle of the century, and papal authority begins to increase.



God's Two Arms: Royalty and Papacy

We believe...the apostolic and royal dignities excel all others in this world, and that Almighty God has apportioned his governance between them...Yet according to the difference between the greater and the less, the Christian religion has so disposed that after God the royal power shall be governed by the care and authority of the apostolic see. ...If I am to represent you in the great judgment day...do consider whether you should not...render obedience to me.



**Pope Gregory VII,
1080 Letter to
William the
Conqueror**

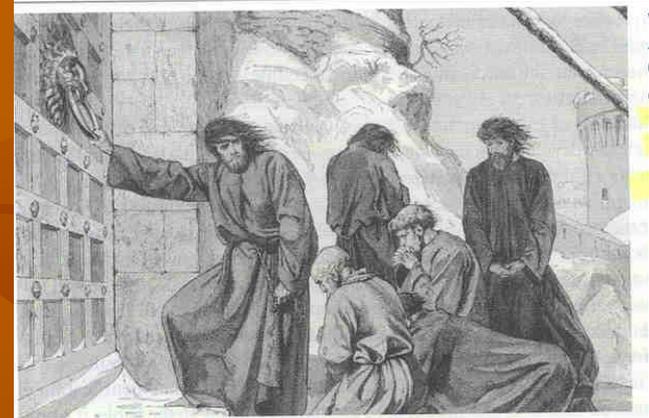


Corbis.com

- a representation of God with the pope and the emperor
- Whose authority is hereby greatest?

Popes vs. Emperors: Round 1

- 1075 Pope Gregory VII condemned lay investiture as an unjustified assertion of secular authority over the church. Gregory accused Emperor Henry IV of Simony in appointing the archbishop of Milan and “summoned” Henry to Rome to explain his conduct.
- Instead, Henry convened a synod in 1076 which denounced Gregory as a usurper and unfit to be Pope and renounced obedience to the Pope.
- 1076 Pope Gregory excommunicated Henry IV and absolved his subjects of obedience to him.
- German nobles revolted against Henry.
- 1077: To restore order, Henry stood in the snow at *Canossa* for three days while doing penance.
- Pope forgave Henry, Henry returned to Germany to put down revolt
- 1080-1084 Conflict between Henry and Gregory, Henry drove Pope Gregory into exile
- Henry I of England renounced lay investiture (1106) in return for the guarantee that homage would be paid to the king before consecration.



Henry IV. In a controversy over lay investiture, Henry was excommunicated by Pope Gregory VII, who also released Henry's subjects from having any allegiance to him. Henry crossed the Alps with his wife and baby to see the pope at Canossa, but he made Henry wait outside, barefoot in the snow, for three days.

Gregory forgave him and said, “We loosed the chain of anathema and...received him...into the lap of the Holy Mother Church.”



1079 Celibacy of Priests Required by Gregory VII

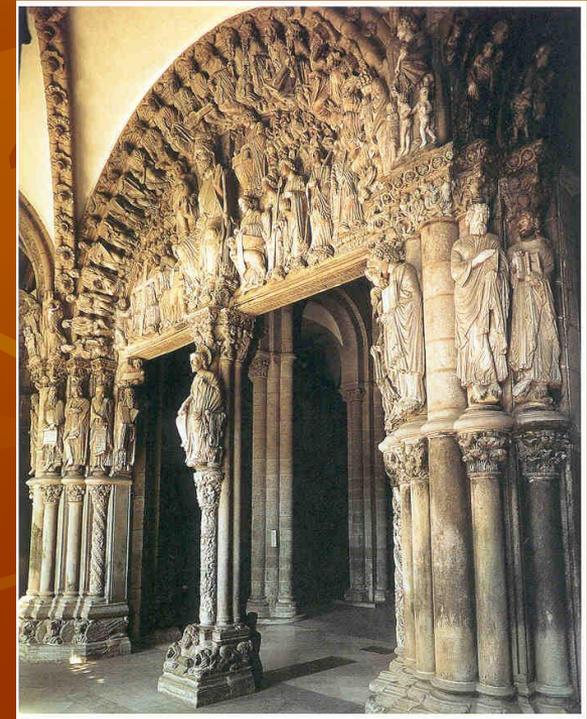
- Clerical celibacy was essentially unknown in the earliest church,
- 1079 celibacy of priesthood declared by Pope Gregory VII
- Byproduct of Investiture Controversy. By making priests and bishops celibate there was no possibility of their positions becoming hereditary, requiring repeated appointments by Rome. It also caused the properties and estates of the clergy to become church property.
- required thousands of wives be disposed of.



Pope Gregory VII

Concordant of Worms 1122

- (1122) Compromise between Pope Calixtus II and Emperor Henry V (r.1106-25) to settle the Investiture Controversy, reached at Worms, Germany.
- Emperors could not appoint bishops
- Emperors could be present at elections
- Bishops had to swear fealty for any feudal lands held
- It marked the end of the first phase of conflict between Rome and the Holy Roman Empire and made a clear distinction between the spiritual side of a prelate's office and his position as a landed magnate and vassal of the crown.
- Bishops and abbots were to be chosen by the clergy, but the emperor was to decide contested elections.
- Those selected were to be invested first with the powers and privileges of their office as vassal (granted by the emperor) and then with their ecclesiastical powers and lands (granted by church authority).



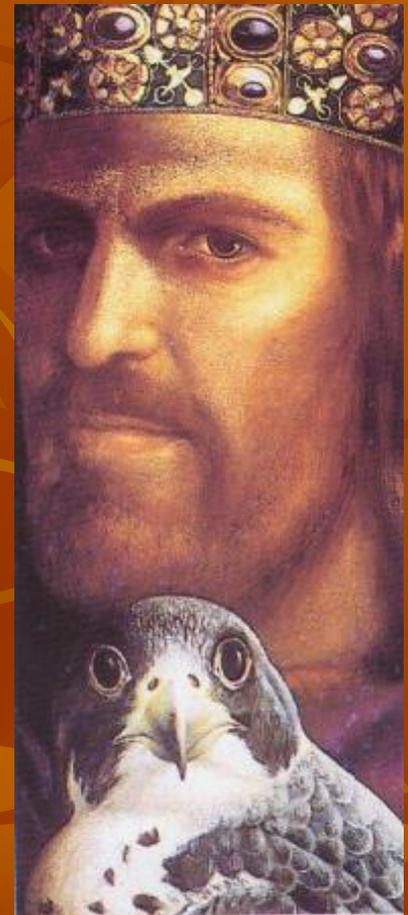
Emperor Frederick Barbarossa:

Emperors vs. Popes Round 2 (r. 1152-1190)

- Challenged pope and lost
- Goal: Conquer Northern Italy and use money gained to raise troops in Germany
- Use troops to intimidate nobles in Germany
- Popes did not want a powerful emperor right next door
- Popes forged an alliance of Italians against Frederick
- 1176 Battle of Legnano: Frederick lost, gave up plan



← Clerics being Drowned



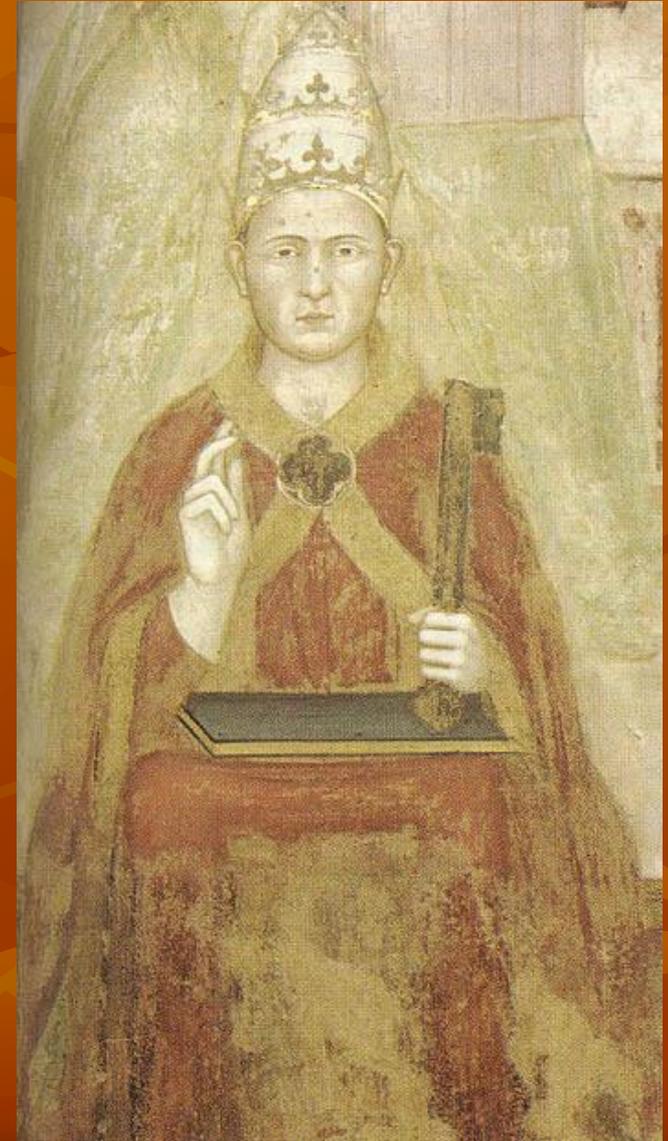
**Pope, in
Investiture
Conflict
with
Emperor
Frederick,
Calls Him
the
Antichrist**

"What other Antichrist should we await, when as is evident in his works, he is already come in the person of Frederick? He is the author of every crime, stained by every cruelty, and he has invaded the patrimony of Christ seeking to destroy it with Saracen aid."



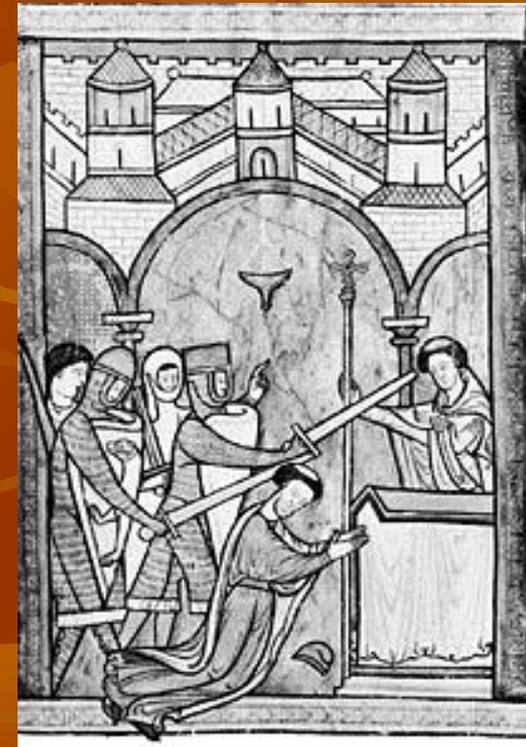
After the Investiture Crisis

- Power of Popes increased
- Struggle between popes and Holy Roman emperors continued
- Conflict with popes will eventually cripple power of Holy Roman Emperor
- Results of the Controversy
 - Neither side got everything it wanted, but...
 - Popes prevented imperial appointment of bishops
 - Power of Holy Roman Emperors over church was more limited



Thomas à Becket: King vs. Church (1118?-1170)

- Archbishop of Canterbury (1162-70).
- The served as chancellor of England (1155-62) under Henry II, whose entire trust he won. A brilliant administrator, diplomat, and military strategist, he aided the king in increasing the royal power.
- Resistant to the Gregorian reform movement that asserted the autonomy of the church, Henry hoped to reinforce royal control of the church by appointing Becket as archbishop of Canterbury in 1162.
- Becket, however, embraced his new duties devoutly and opposed royal power in the church, especially proclaiming the right of offending clerics to be tried in ecclesiastical courts.
- The king issued the Constitutions of Clarendon (1164) listing royal rights over the church, and he summoned the archbishop to trial.
- Becket fled to France and remained in exile until 1170, when he returned to Canterbury and was murdered in the cathedral by four of Henry's knights.
- His tomb became a site of pilgrimage, and he was canonized in 1173.



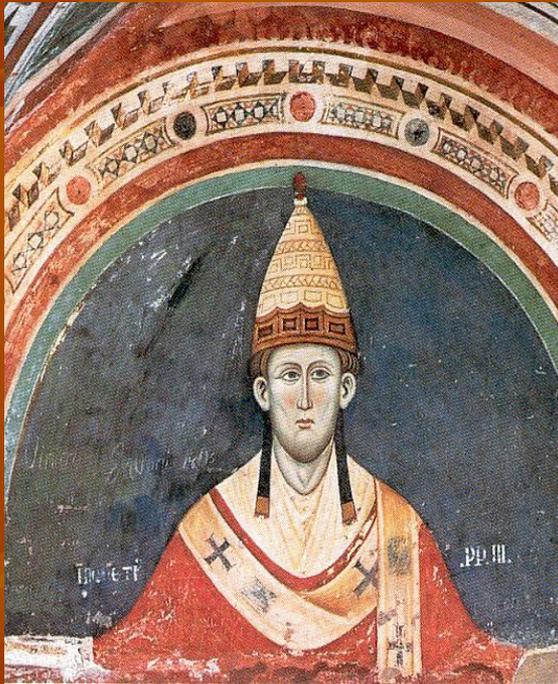
King Henry's Councils of Clarendon (1164)

- Sixteen articles issued by King Henry II defining church-state relations in England.
- Designed to restrict ecclesiastical privileges and curb the power of the church courts, the constitutions provoked the famous quarrel between Henry and St. Thomas Becket.
- Among their controversial measures were the provisions that all revenues from vacant sees and monasteries reverted to the king, who had discretion in filling the vacant offices, and that clerics charged with serious crimes were to be tried in secular courts.
- Becket's martyrdom in 1170 forced Henry to moderate his attack on the clergy, but he did not repudiate the constitutions.



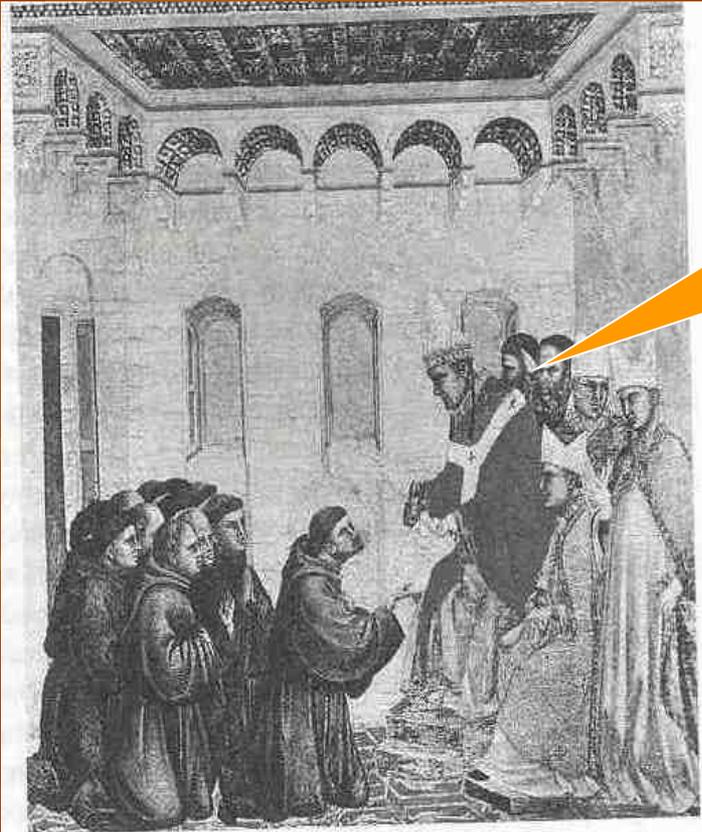
The Murder of St. Thomas Becket

Pope Innocent III: History's Most Powerful Pope (r. 1198-1216)



- 1202: pope Innocent III claims extensive papal power—believed he was “*The Vicar of Christ*”
- Used power of papacy to intimidate kings and emperors through Interdicts.
- Deposed King John (1199-1216) of England and forced him to become his vassal.
- King of France becomes vassal
- Holy Roman Emperor deposed
- 1204: Condone capture of Constantinople by Crusaders in Fourth Crusade
- 1215 Convenes 4th Lateran Council

Innocent III: On Church-State Relations



Pope Innocent III. As "vicar of God," Innocent believed he had supreme authority on earth. In this painting by Giotto, he is granting St. Francis the right to preach.

The Papacy is like the sun, while kings are like the moon. As the moon receives its light from the sun, so kings derive their powers from the Pope.



Innocent's Political Weapons: Excommunication

- In a sacramental/sacerdotalist setting, being deprived of the Mass meant you were eternally damned.
- After a bishop read the sentence of excommunication, a bell rang as for a funeral, a book was closed, and a candle extinguished, all signifying the cutting off of the guilty man.
- While excommunicated, persons could not act as judge, juror, witness or attorney. After death they received no Christian burial, and if they accidentally were buried on consecrated ground (or if excommunicated post mortem!) their bodies were dug up and destroyed.



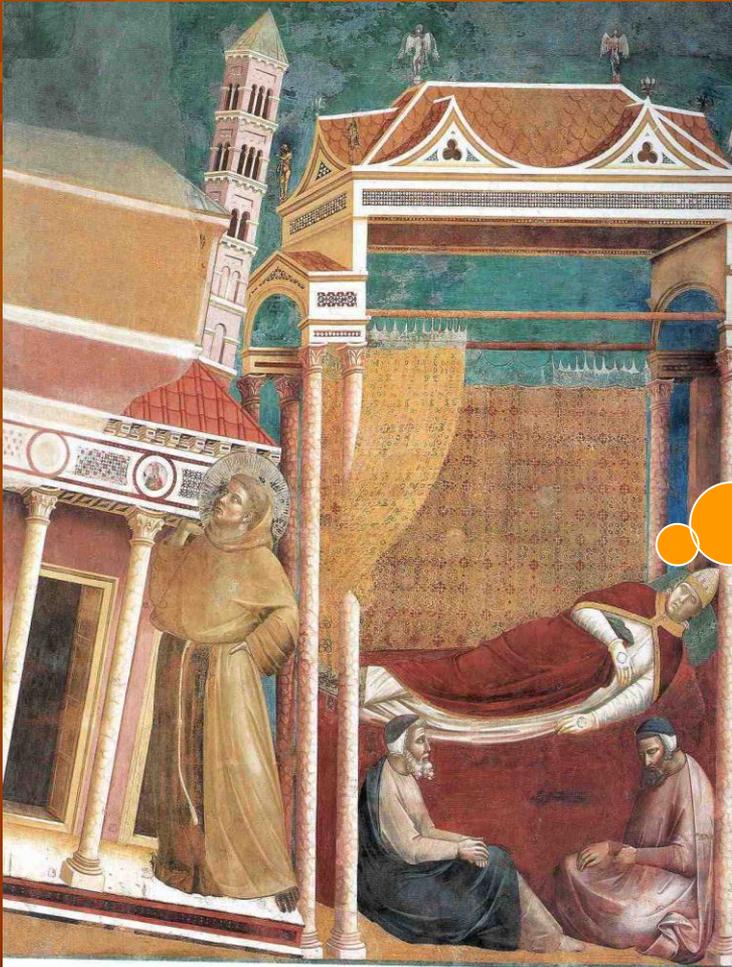
Innocent's Political Weapons: Interdict

- Described as a “national ecclesiastical lockout”
- In a sacramentalist/sacerdotalist setting, closing the churches had devastating impact.
- Suspended all public worship
- Withdrawal of all sacraments, nationwide, except for baptism and extreme unction (last rights)
- Innocent used Interdicts successfully 85 times!



Note Gargoyles

Pope Innocent III's Delusions of Grandeur



“The successor of Peter, is the Vicar of Christ: he has been established as a mediator between God and man, below God, but beyond man; less than God but more than man; who shall judge all and be judged by no one.”

Pope Innocent III

Cathars or “Albigensians”

- Cathars or Albigensians;
- adhered to the dualist belief that the material world is evil and that humans must renounce the world to free their spirits, which are good and long for communion with God.
- Jesus’ human suffering and death were an illusion.
- Followers divided themselves into the "perfect," who had to maintain the highest moral standards, and ordinary "believers," of whom less was expected.
- By 1200 they had established 11 bishoprics in France and Italy.

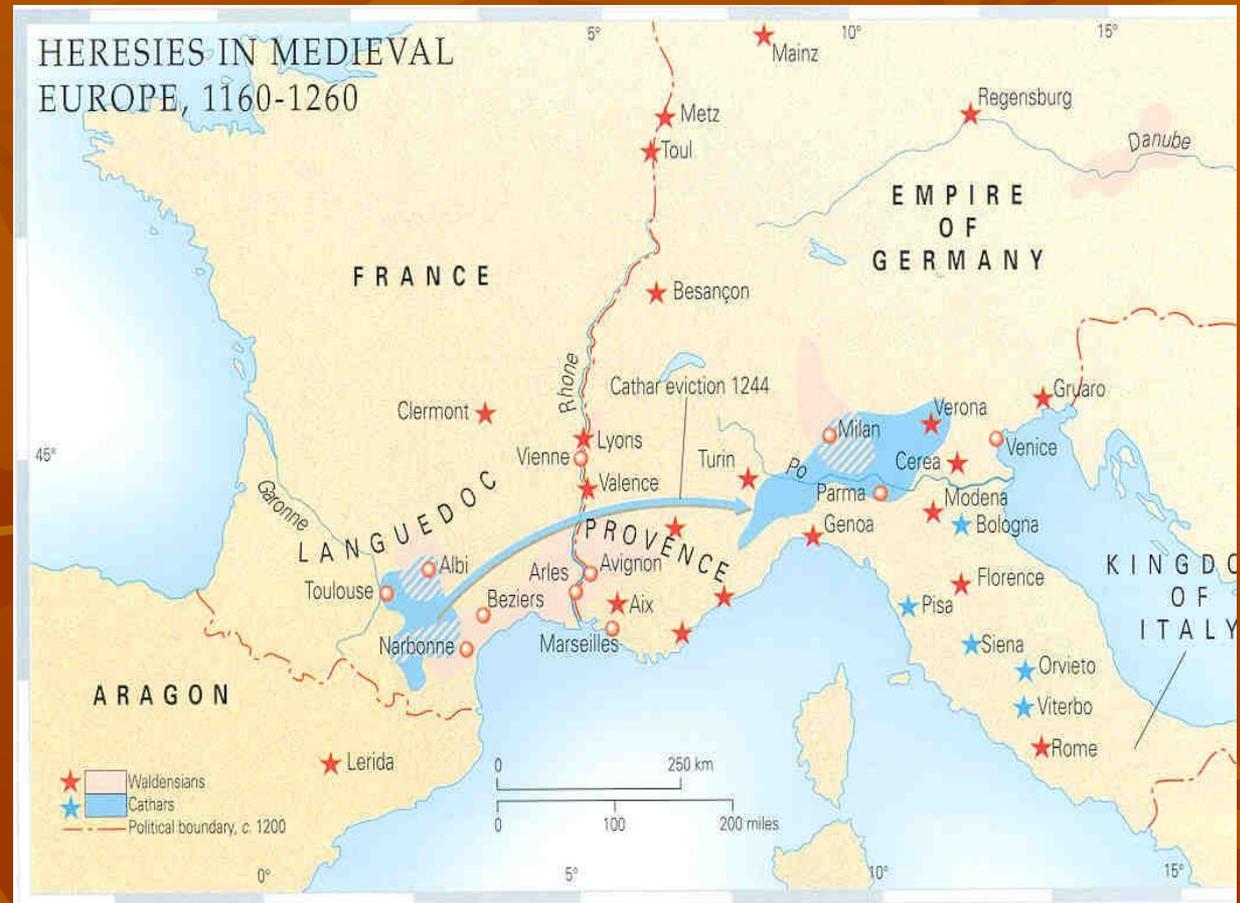


The fortress-like cathedral of Albi, France.

The fortifications of Albi in the Cathar region of south France

Spread of Cathars and Waldensians

*'Waldensianism was the most geographically widespread and the longest lived of all medieval popular heresies; most likely it was also the largest in terms of aggregate numbers of believers'.
(The Dictionary of the Middle Ages, 508)*



Where's Waldo?

Pope Innocent III Declares “Crusade” Against Albigensians

How will we know whom to kill? What if the heretics pretend to be orthodox? How can we tell them apart?

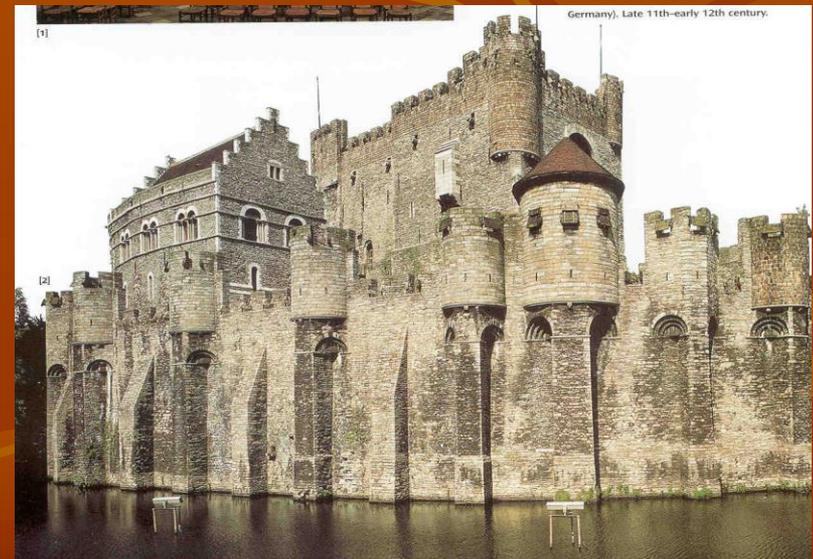
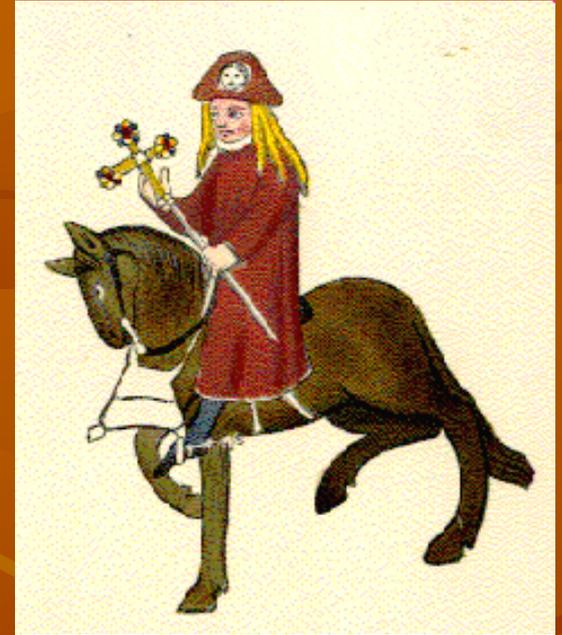
Just kill them all. God knows his own.

- Pope Innocent III declared the Albigensian Crusade, in which the populace in Cathar regions was indiscriminately massacred.
- Persecution through the Inquisition, was even more effective, and when the Cathar stronghold of Montségur fell in 1244, most Cathari fled to Italy. The movement disappeared in the 15th century



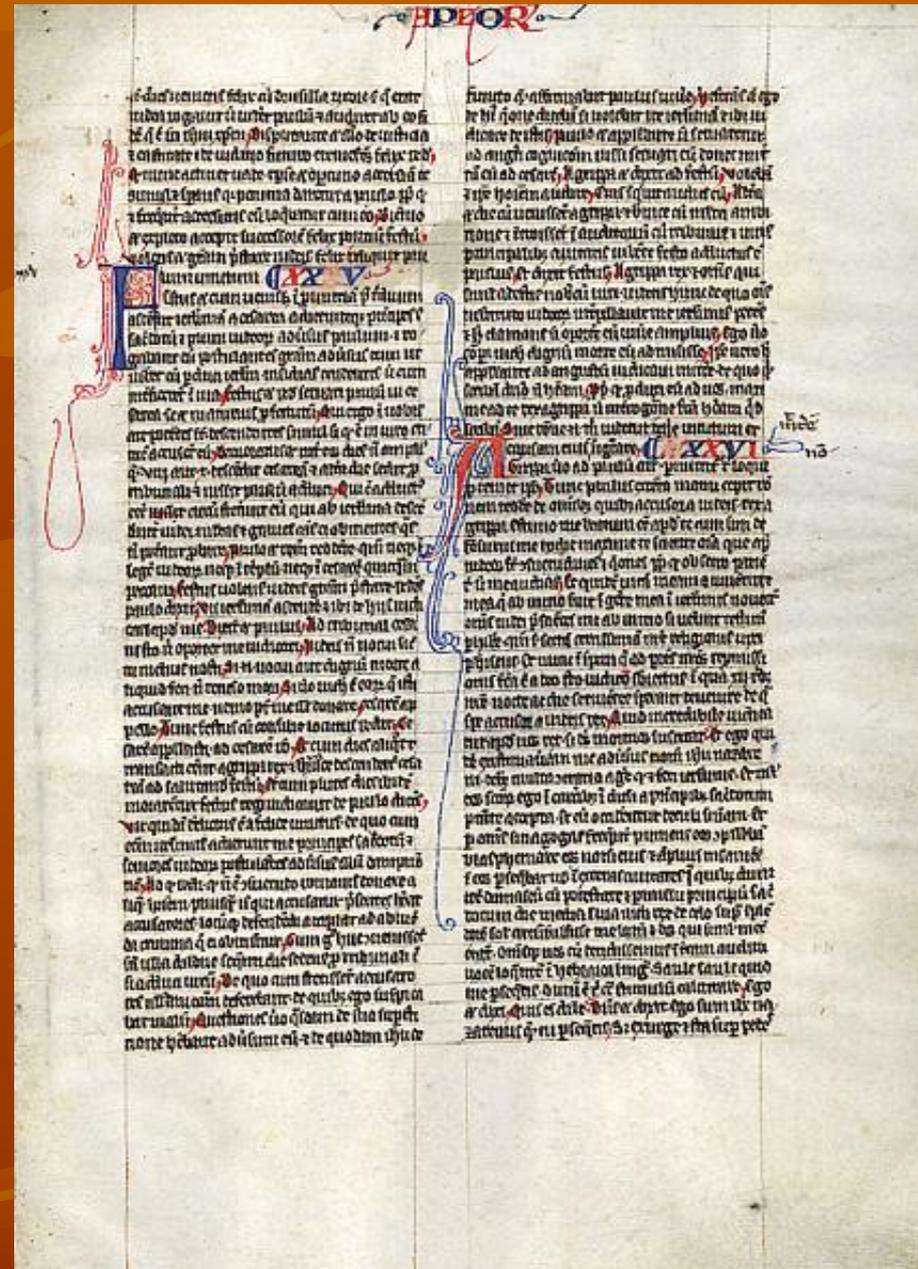
Waldensians 1173 AD

- Waldensian movement begins in Lyons, seeking truth in Bible rather than medieval tradition.
- French Vaudois; Italian Valdesi;
- Founded by Peter Waldo/Valdès; (died before 1218)
- Devotees sought to follow the example of Jesus by living in poverty and simplicity.
- Around 1170 Waldo began to preach a doctrine of voluntary poverty in Lyon.
- In 1179 his vow of poverty was confirmed by Pope Alexander III, but he was forbidden to continue preaching.



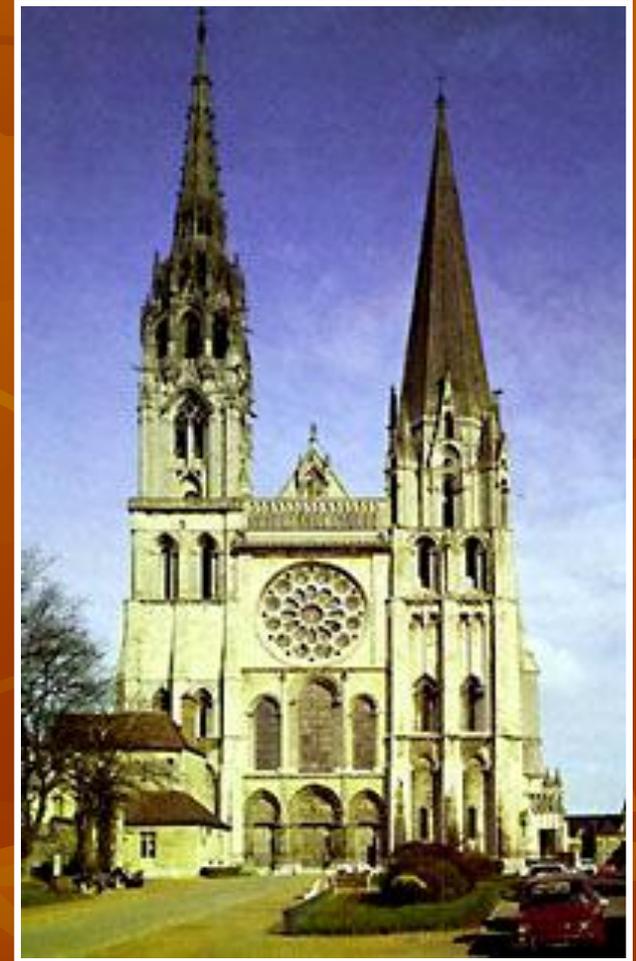
Waldensians on Scripture

- Whatever is preached which cannot be proved by the text of Scripture they consider as “fabulous” (fables).
- Reject the mystical sense in the holy Scriptures, principally as it regards the sayings and doings delivered in the Church by tradition.
- No Purgatory
- No veneration of Saints
- No worship of relics
- No prayers, masses or alms for the dead
- Bible to be translated into vernacular.



Waldensians on the Church

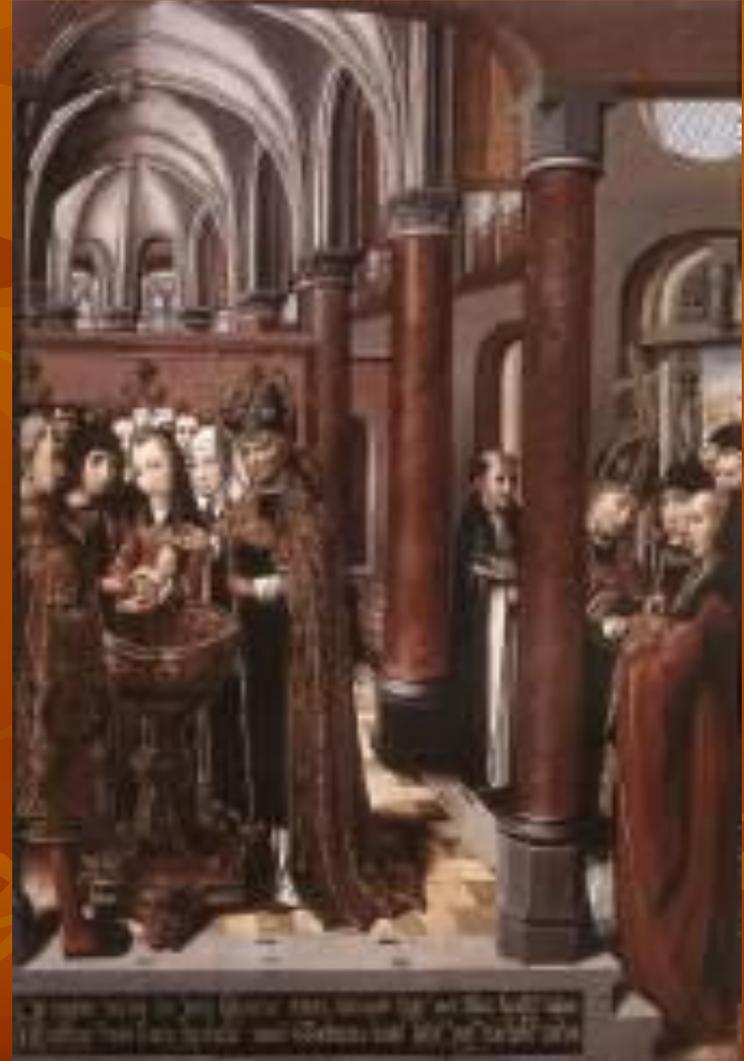
- A contemporary describes the Waldensian heresies: *"They say that the Romish Church, is not the Church of Jesus Christ, but a church of malignants and that it apostatized ...And they say, that they are the church of Christ, because they observe both in word, and deed, the doctrine of Christ, of the Gospel, and of the Apostles."* From Reinerius Saccho, "Of the Sects of Modern Heretics" (1254)
- Church of Rome is the Harlot in the Apocalypse, on account of its superfluous decoration which the Eastern Church does not regard.
- Pope is the head of all errors.
- We are not to obey Prelates; but only God.
- No one is greater than another in the church.
- The prayer of an evil priest does not profit
- Latin prayer does not profit the vulgar
- Christ is sufficient for salvation without the statutes of the Church



Chartres Cathedral, France

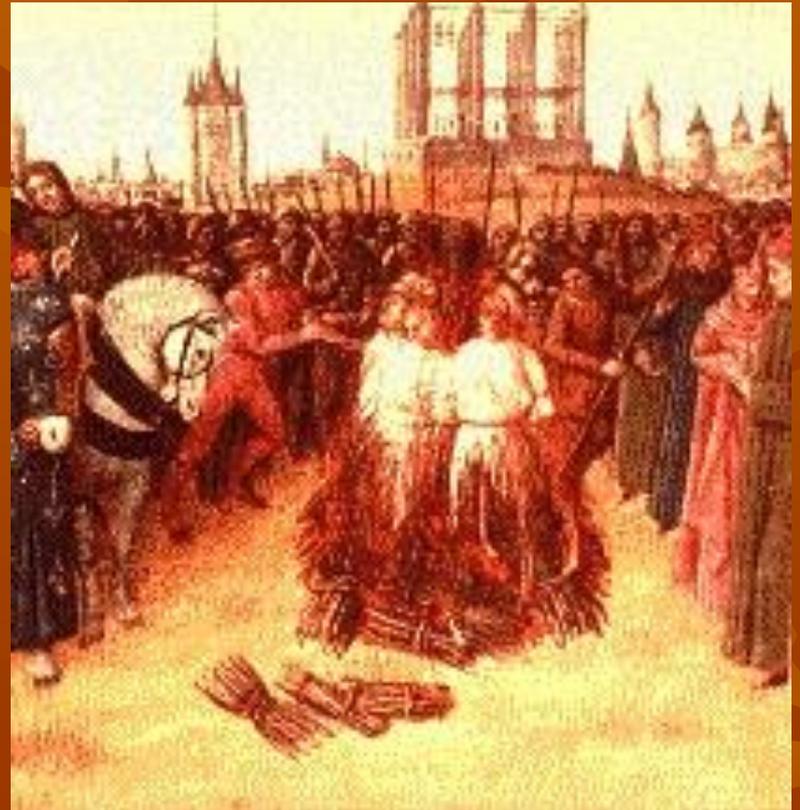
Waldensians on the Sacraments

- **Condemn all the Sacraments of the Church**
- **No sacrament of Unction,**
- **No sacrament of Ordination-, every good layman is a priest.**
- **No Celibacy for Priests**
- **Infant Baptism profits nothing..**



Persecutions of the Waldensians

- In 1184 Waldo and his followers, called Paupers or “the Poor of Lyons”, were excommunicated and banished from Lyon and were severely persecuted from 1197.
- After being placed under ban by Pope Lucius III (1184), Waldo and his followers departed from Roman Catholicism by rejecting such concepts as purgatory and the veneration of the saints.
- Rome responded with active persecution and execution of Waldenses, and their numbers diminished by the end of the 15th century.
- **1229 Synod of Toulouse bans vernacular translations of the Bible to prevent similar groups in future**



Edward I of England (r. 1272-1307)

Bishops in Parliament

- Edward continued to increase royal authority in England
- Parliament: Called by Edward in 1295, this meeting of nobles, bishops and wealthy townsfolk would become one of the most important political institutions in England



The Emerging Power of the Medieval Church

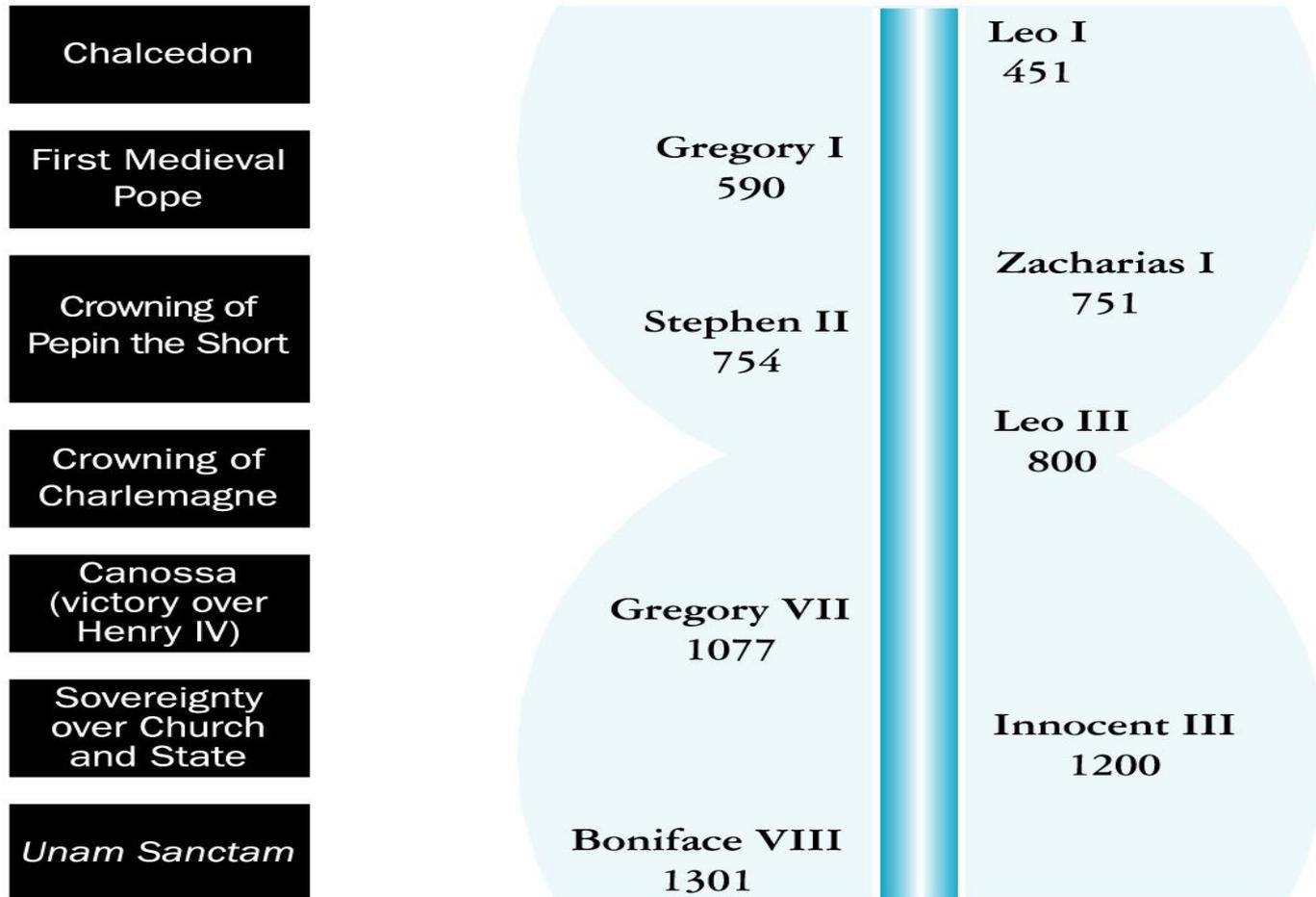


Chart 94

Questions to Consider

- Did any good at all come out of the merger of Church and State? Can any good ever come of it?
- What are the logical consequences of believing that you receive grace from sacraments and only from one official source?
- If sacramentalism and sacerdotalism were true, how would you understand the mutual excommunications of the Eastern and Western churches?



Richard II