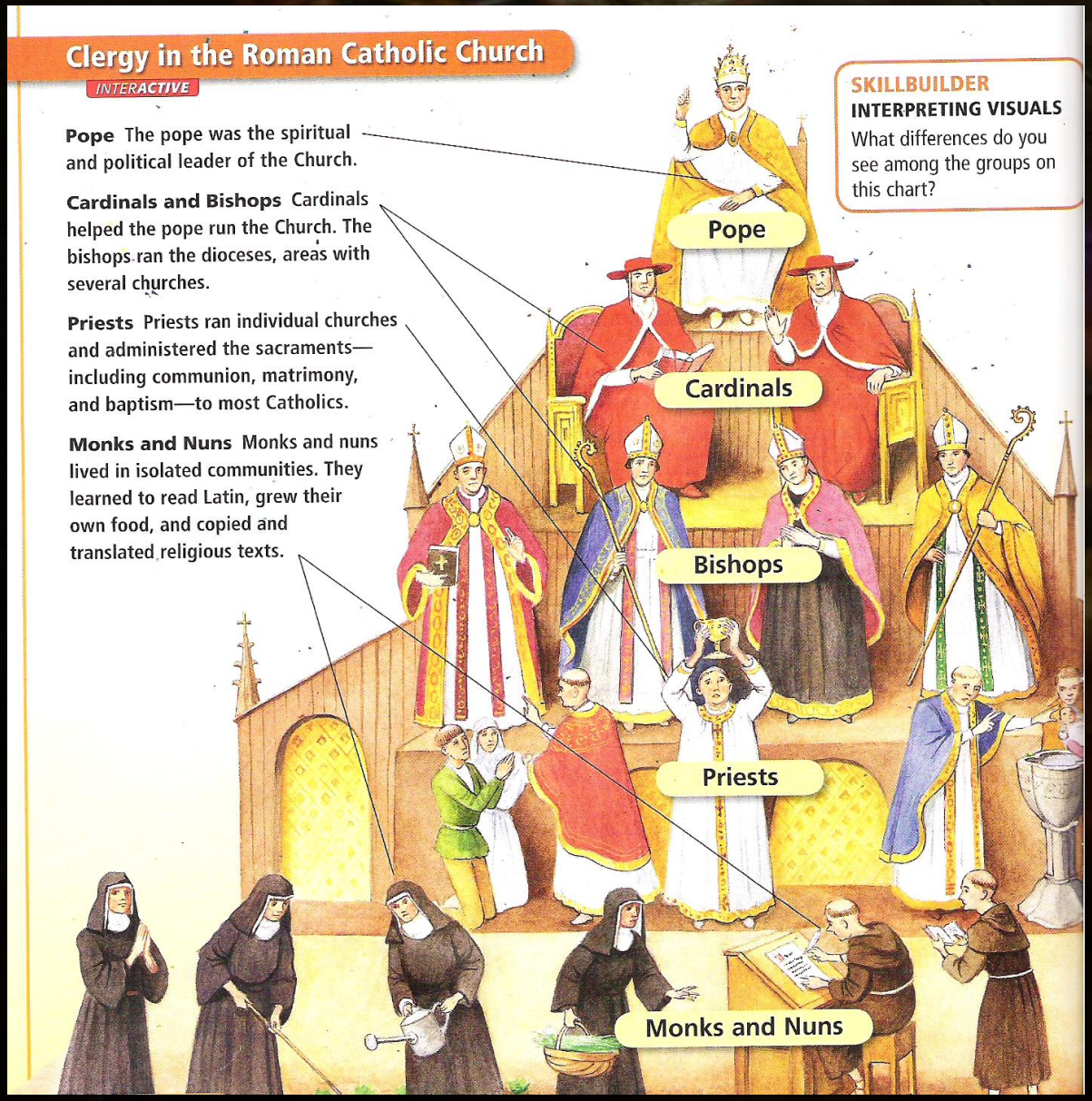


The Role of the Church in Medieval Europe

Why was Christianity Important?

- Churches were the center of religious and social life
- All Christians belonged to Roman Catholic Church (until Great Schism)
- The Church provided leadership and stability in an unstable time
- The church was as important, if not more important, than many kings and queens during this time.

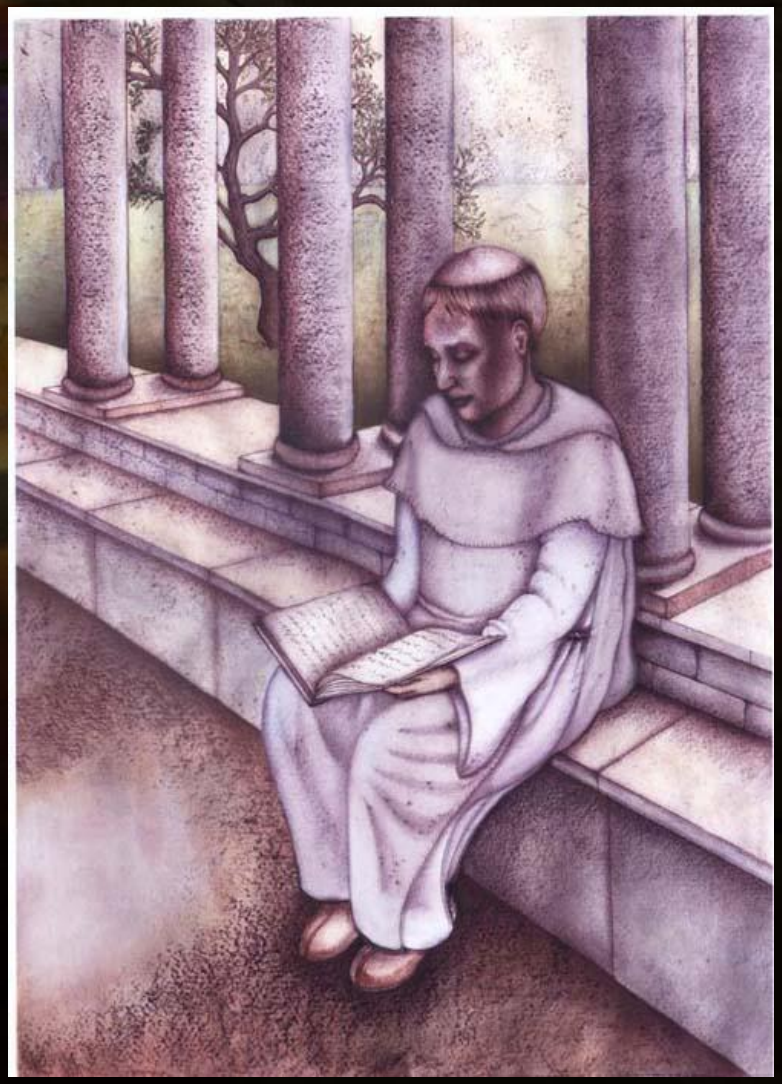


- Clergy – the people who perform sacred functions of a church (ex: priest)

Power of the church

- Owned 1/3 of all land in Europe – largest landholder in Europe
- Collected a tithe – 1/10 of income or 1 penny from peasants

- Generally, the clergy were the only people who could read; often kept records for kings





- Power struggles were common between Pope and King (ex: Pope Gregory VII and Henry IV)

Sacraments and Salvation

- The church taught that receiving the 7 sacraments were an essential part of salvation

1. baptism



2. Confirmation – formal declaration of belief in God and the church



3. Eucharist – like the Lord's Supper (bread and wine)

(now called Mass)



4. Marriage



5. Holy Orders – when a man becomes a priest



6. Penance – confession of sins to priest (Reconciliation)



7. Extreme Unction – blessing when sick or dying



Pilgrimages

- Christians tried to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and Rome at least once
- Visited churches that supposedly housed relics (holy items)





- Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a popular book about pilgrims called the *Canterbury Tales*



Art & Architecture

- Most art was for religious purposes
- Most people couldn't read, art helped tell Christ's story



- Towns spent 50 – 100 years building cathedrals
- Gothic style was popular



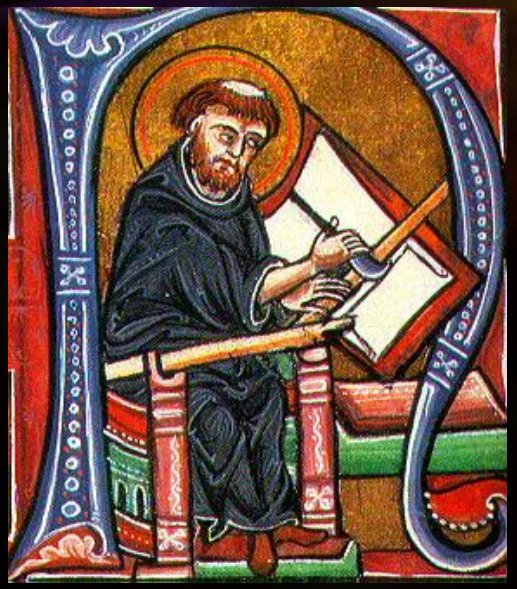



www.Pete
Carr.net

Monasticism

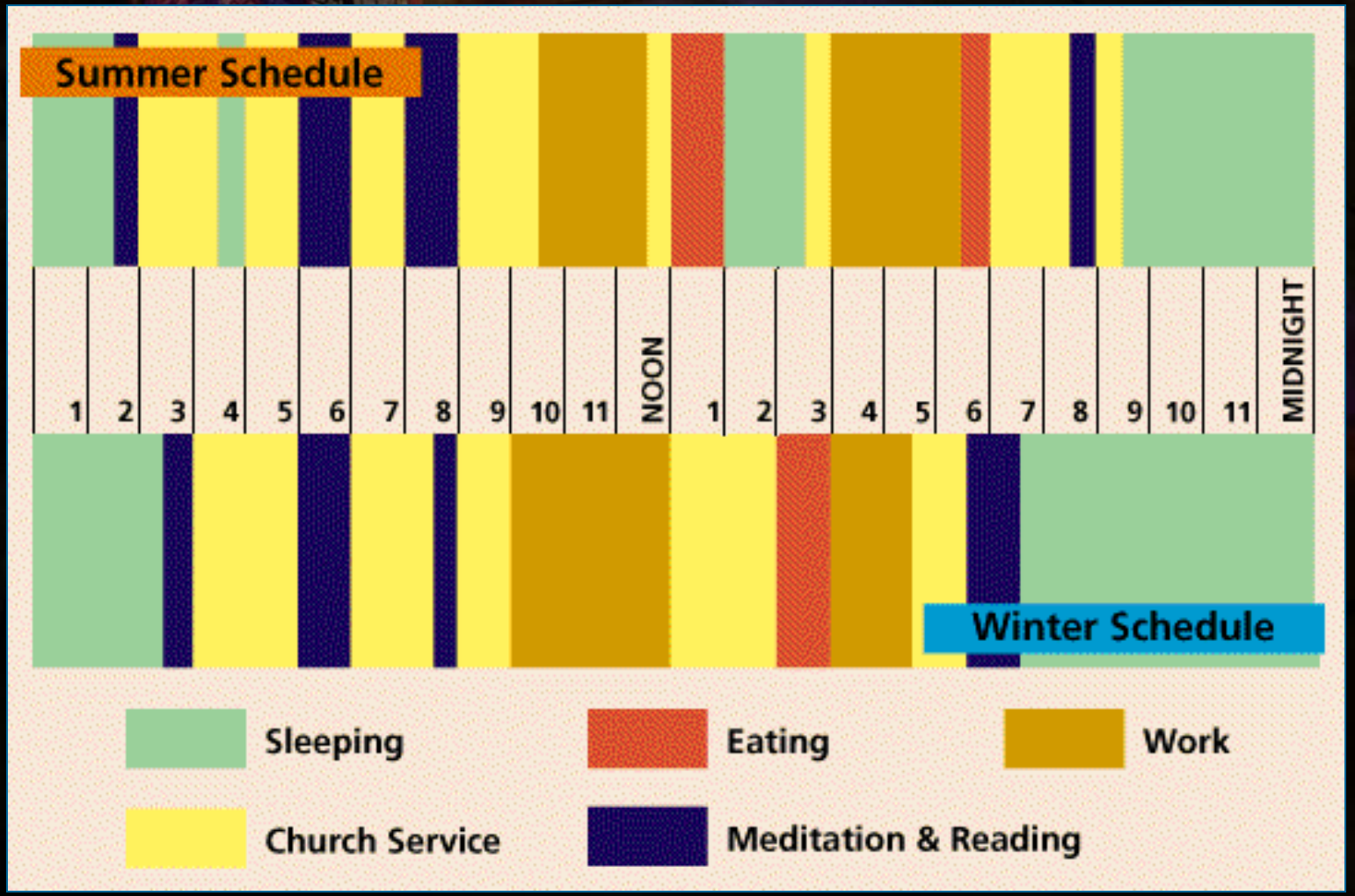
- About 1 in 10 lived a monastic life (life devoted to the service of God)
- Many monks took vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience



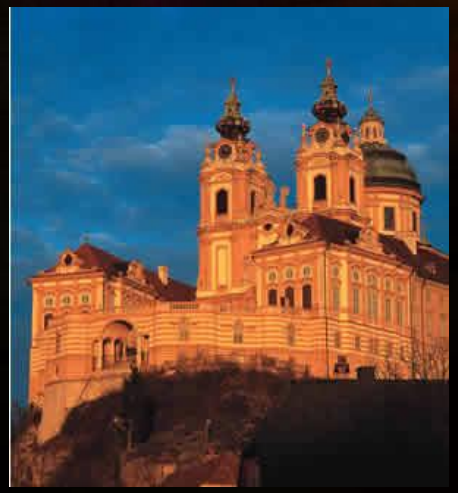




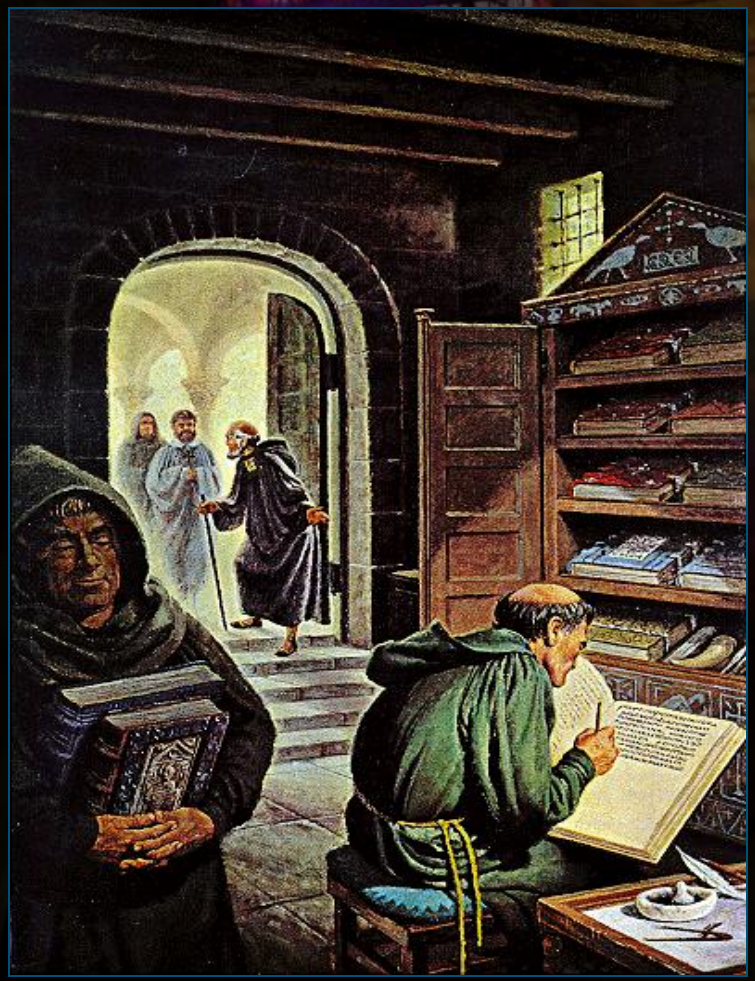
A Medieval Monk's Day



- Monks farmed the land and raised livestock on Church property.
- They ran inns (which included restaurants) and hospitals to serve others.
- They gave refuge to people in time of war or crisis.



- Monks maintained libraries and "scriptoria" to copy books and illuminate manuscripts.





- Monks provided schools for children of upper class.
- Eventually, monasteries became too small to teach all who wanted to be educated.
- “Classes” began meeting outside monastery.
- Those buildings grew into universities.

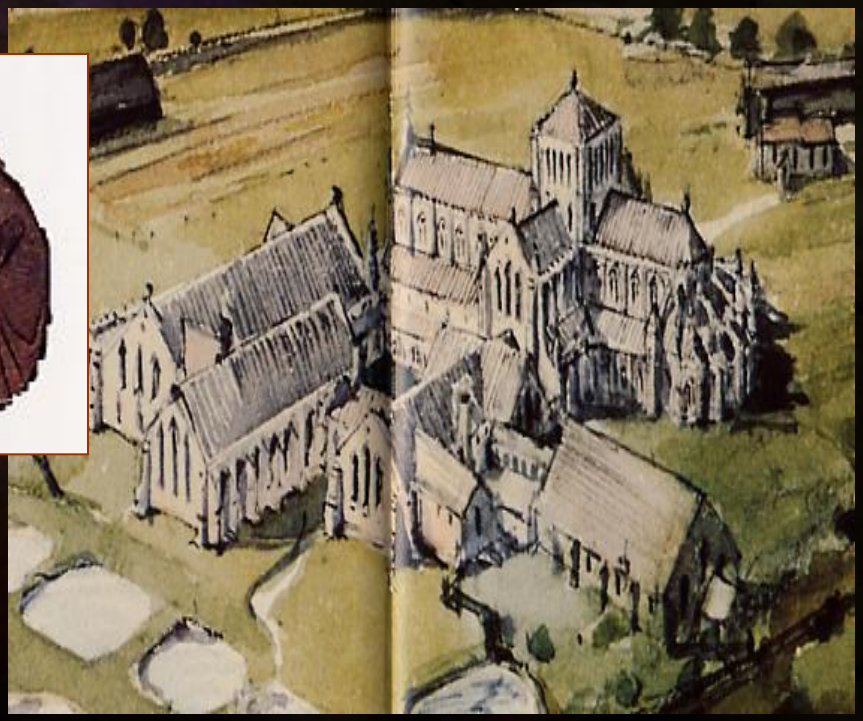
Medieval Universities



Monastery

- **Complex community of many different buildings**
  - Granaries
  - Breweries
  - Bakeries
  - Wineries
  - Abbey church
  - Library / scriptorium
  - Hospital
  - School





Self contained like a town