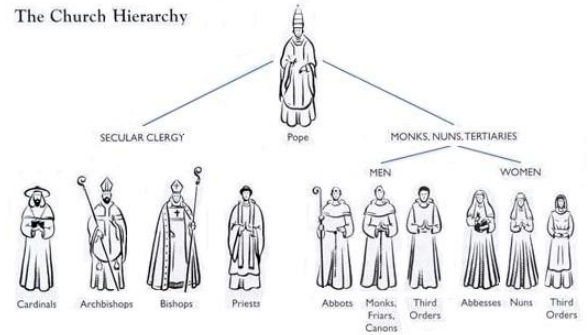


Medieval Christian Church

How was the Church organized?

Pope -

The Church Hierarchy



Archbishop -

Bishop -

Priest -



The Monastery

monos -

Describe the life of a monk:

-
-
-

Monasticism in Ireland



St. Benedict



Benedictine Monastery

abbot

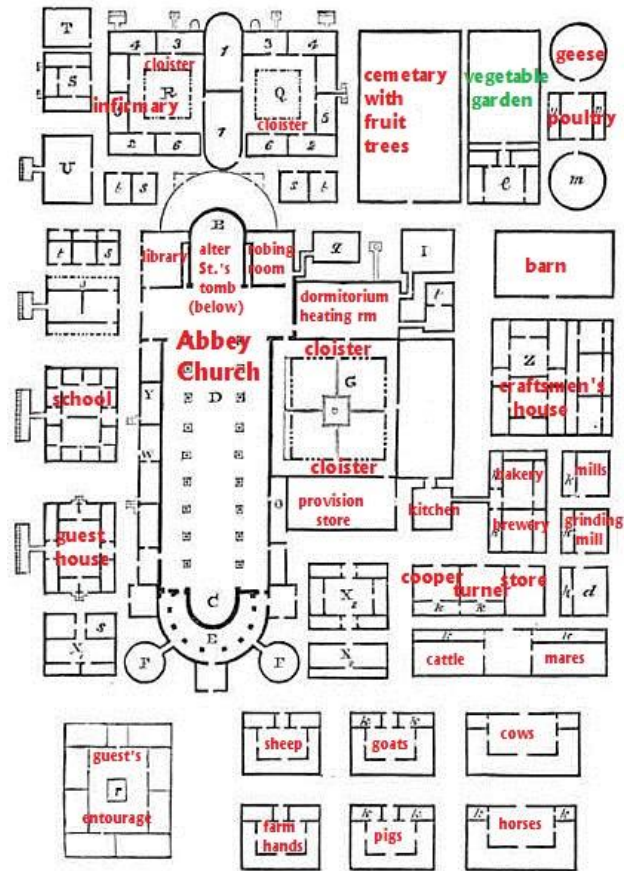
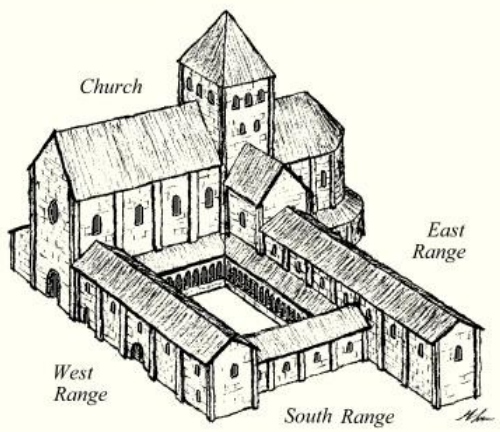
What vows did a monk take?

What did Benedictine monks wear?

What is St. Benedict's Rule?



Typical Claustral Complex



What kind of work did monks do?

-
-
-
-
-
-

Some monks had special responsibilities

sacristan -

cellarer -

chamberlain -

almoner -

guest master -

porter -

St. Benedict once said -

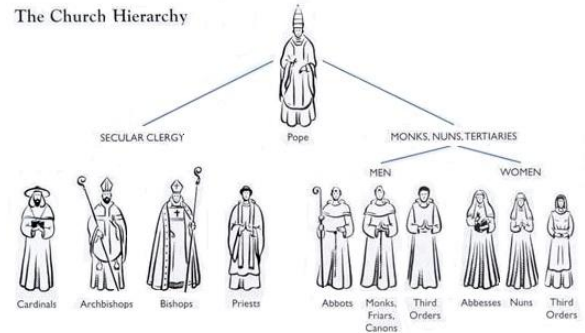
Women & the Church:



Medieval Christian Church

How was the Church organized?

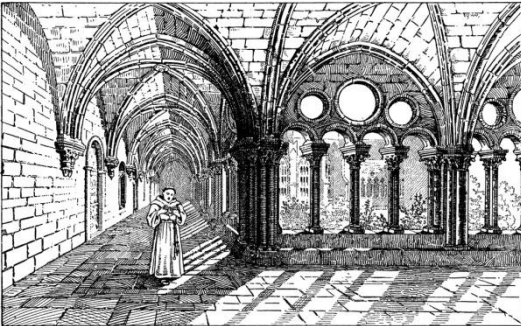
Pope - in the 6th century the Bishop of Rome claimed supremacy over the Christian Church in Europe. The Pope could dole out punishments including excommunication which forbade a person from participating in the holy sacraments, to attend mass or to be buried in sacred ground



Archbishop - had authority over his own diocese (district), but outranked all the other bishops in his province (several diocese)

Bishop - governed his diocese. His duties were to maintain order, preserve justice and provide leadership for officials of the local communities. He also performed religious ceremonies

Priest - Each diocese was divided into several parishes. Each parish was ruled by a priest (usually a man of humble origin).



The Monastery

monos - means one

Among the earliest Christians were hermits who lived along in the desert or in caves. Others sought out these hermits and some of them were eventually inspired to organize a community of

hermits. These were the first monasteries. Men living in them were known as monks.

Describe the life of a monk:

- devoted much of their life to prayer, fasting and meditation
- they had to work/perform tasks for the community
- gave up all worldly possessions

Monasticism in Ireland

St. Patrick was a Briton who was born in Wales. He was kidnapped by pirates and spent his youth as a slave in Ireland. Eventually, he escaped to a French monastery where he was trained as a priest. In 432 he returned to Ireland, determined to spread Christianity. He encouraged the building of monasteries, which began centers of learning. He died on March 17, 461 which has been celebrated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.



St. Benedict

Benedict was born to a wealthy Italian family in 480. He was educated in Rome in preparation for a life of government service. He was appalled by the ruins of the city (which had been sacked by Goths and Vandals).

He gave up on his studies and went east. He found a lonely cave and lived as a hermit. But, his reputation for holiness attracted many followers who wanted to share his way of life.

Benedictine Monastery

Each Benedictine monastery was governed by an abbot, who was elected for life.

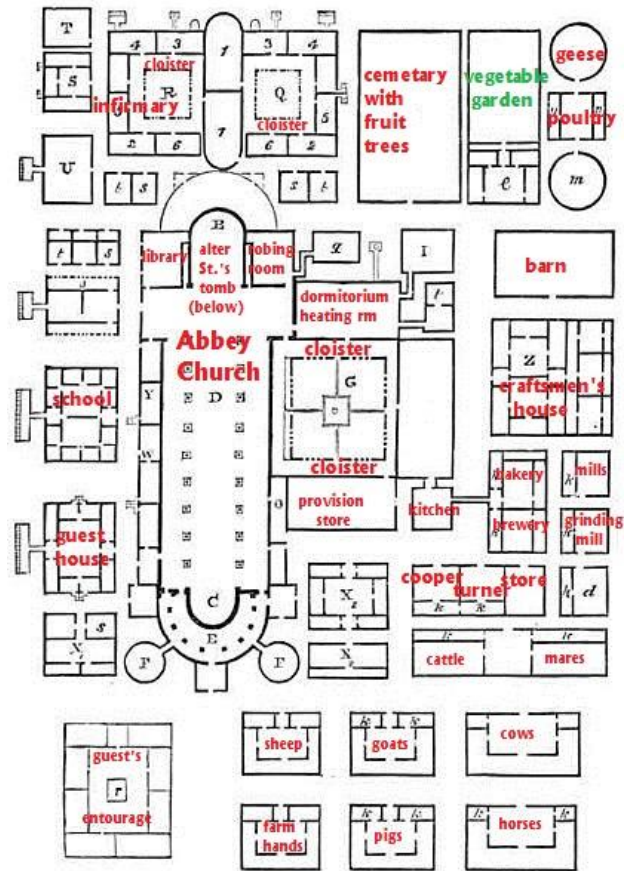
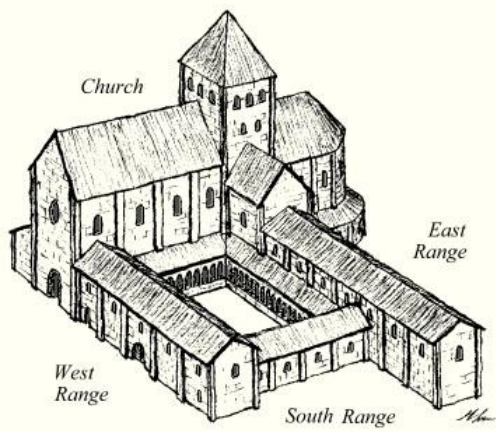
When a monk joined a monastery, he took a vow of poverty, chastity and obedience. He had no personal belongings. He was rarely allowed to speak.

Benedictine monks wore heavy, black robes. The top of his head was shaved, leaving a round, bald spot called a tonsure.

Monks followed a comprehensive set of regulations called St. Benedict's Rule. The monk's lives consisted of prayer, work and sleep. Monks prayed at regular intervals, eight times a day.



Typical Claustral Complex



What kind of work did monks do?

- laboring in the fields
- preparing meals
- cleaning the monastery
- studying the writings of the Church
- educating young boys
- making copies of books

Some monks had special responsibilities

sacristan - looked after the church and its furnishings

cellarer - was in charge of the food

chamberlain - took care of the clothing

almoner - distributed gifts (mainly food) to the poor

guest master - received guests and provided hospitality

porter - guarded the gate



St. Benedict once said - idleness is the enemy of the soul.

(Idleness is the enemy of the soul; and therefore the brethren ought to be employed in manual labor at certain times, at others, in devout reading.)

Women & the Church:

Women could not become leaders in the medieval Church. There were convents for women. These are sometimes known as nunneries. Some women joined a convent because they could not find husbands. An unmarried woman was considered to be an old maid at the age of 21.