

Benedictine Rule

Monasticism: Poverty, Chastity, Obedience

St. Benedict of Nursia: 6th cent, influential

Long night office

7 daily offices

Social Function:

3 types recruits: Mature laymen, clerics, noble children

Most recruits = noble children

Lay foundations & donations = v important

Communities of monks needed to perform heavy penances

Cluny

Peak of Benedictine life

Abbot Odilo (r. 994-1049) respected & powerful

c.1100 diversification of religious orders

12th & early 13th century new orders forming

Formation of new orders protest against old orders

New Orders

12th century Rise of *individual spirituality*

Monks unhappy w/ perceived decadence of Benedictines

New orders: Augustinian, Cistercians

Augustinian Canons

Augustine's advice Pray together

Obedience to superior

Hold possessions in common

Small churches, close to towns

Augustinian: engaged w/ world

Benedictine: secluded

Based life on letter from Augustine to religious women

Cistercians

Fled from society

Rigorous life: aggressive pursuit of religious ideal

Return to primitive Benedictine Rule

Bernard of Clairvaux

1115: Cistercian Order expanded.

Bernard asked to lead in foundation of Clairvaux monastery.

Abbot of Clairvaux in mid20s

High profile Enthusiasm & ability

Drawn into politics, esp. papacy

Cistercians Rejected tithes, rents, services, church profits

expanded rapidly: Augustinians relied on

Refused: perform masses, confessions, burials

Land only for agriculture & full possession

Removed selves from towns

Conversi (lay brothers) = basis for economy

20 Aug 1153 Bernard died

338 Cist abbeys (68 direct foundations of Clairvaux)

Born 1090. Aristocratic family in Fontaines

Schooled from young age, meant for a clerical career.

Religious Women

Relatively few women religious

England, 1066: 13 religious houses for women, 50 for men

1154: 60 for women, 500 for men

Double monasteries Groups of nuns w/ groups of monks

Cistercian efforts to prevent women from joining their Order



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