FILM 1- SOCIETY IN ROMANESQUE PERIOD

Focus : <u>The Church and the Clergy: « those who pray»</u>

The Church was made up of a regular clergy, where monks and nuns lived in the monasteries, and of a secular clergy, **where** the bishops and priests worked within their diocese and their parishes (the network of parish churches was established in the 11th century).

Throughout the 11th and 12th century, the Church's former power was diminished by feudal battles. Pope Gregory VII (pope from 1073-1095) undertook vast reforms within the Church. The Pope became the sole leader of the Church and of Christianity, and he named the Bishops. The clergy had to adopt a more rigorous lifestyle and the lords had to restitute the Church belongings they had seized...

In the monasteries, the Rule of Life had to be strictly observed. The most common rule was the Rule of Saint Benedict, who divided time between manual work, spiritual work (reading and meditating on the scriptures) and group prayer. The monasteries played a major economic role in the development of the land : clearing land, drying up marshes, developing salt marshes, establishing vineyards...In this context of reforms, the Cistercian order, among others, was founded with Bernard de Clairvaux (1090-1153) as its main spiritual leader.

In the parishes, the priests accompanied the worshippers throughout their life : from their baptism to their religious marriage – a custom which gradually established itself - to their burial. The Gregorian reforms rendered celibacy and teachings obligatory for the priests ; they also prohibited them from selling indulgences (to buy back sins).

The reformed clergy propagated the Christian values **that were t**o structure civilian society. The numerous constructions of stone churches that followed the reforms also participated in spreading these values through paintings and sculptures.

The small parish churches, great monasteries, cathedrals and pilgrimage churches where the relics of the saints were worshipped... all contributed to developing the power of the Church throughout the Romanesque period.

Illustration 1 : *The Romanesque cathedral of Saint-Pierre at Angoulême (Charente), built by the bishop Girard II.* © Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, inventaire général du patrimoine culturel / C. Rome, 2011.

Illustration 2 : *Mural painting representing a bishop. Church of Saint-Hilaire at Poitiers (Vienne).*© Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, inventaire général du patrimoine culturel / E . Dessert. A. Maulny, 1983.

Illustration 4 : *A tombstone representing a priest, praying with raised hands. Church of Anché (Vienne)*. © Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, inventaire général du patrimoine culturel / C. Rome, 2009.

Illustration 3 : *Monk with a chalice and a paten, objects used in mass. Church of Champagne-Mouton (Charente).* © Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, inventaire général du patrimoine culturel / C. Rome, 2013.

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Illustration 5 : A 12th century baptismal tub. Church of Ars (Charente).
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Illustration 6 : *Scene from a wedding. In the 12th century, weddings started to become a religious ceremony. Church of Civaux (Vienne).* © Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, inventaire général du patrimoine culturel / G. Beauvarlet, 2010.

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Illustration 7 : *Tomb of Pierre de Saine-Fontaine. He was a reformist abbot at the Abbey of Airvault. Church of Airvault (Deux-Sèvres)* © Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, inventaire général du patrimoine culturel / C. Rome, 2010.

Illustration 8 : Abbey church of Saint-Amant-de-Boixe (Charente), rebuilt in the 12th century.

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Illustration 9 : *Abbey of the Ladies, a women's monastery founded around 1047 in Saintes (Charente-Maritime).*© Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, inventaire général du patrimoine culturel / G. Beauvarlet, 2003.
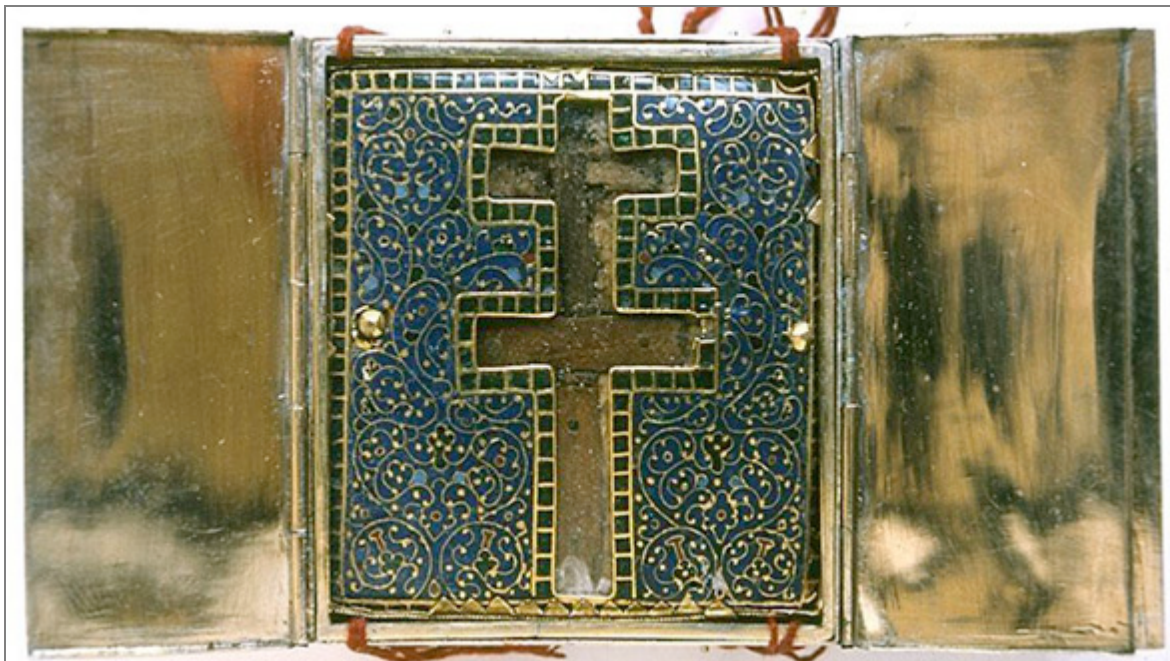

Illustration 10 : *11th century reliquary of the True Cross preserved until 1792 at the Abbey of Sainte Croix in Poitiers* © CAOA de la Vienne / C. Vignaud, 2006.

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