

Medieval Christianity

I. The Medieval Church

A. Traditional (Official Doctrine & Belief)

- “Vulgate” translation of bible (St. Jerome, ca. 400)
- Church Fathers (e.g., Augustine, Jerome, Ambrose, Gregory the Great)
- Church councils (e.g., Lateran IV (1215))
- Popes
- theologians and canon lawyers

B. Hierarchical (Clergy & Church administration)

1. Clergy (ca. 10% population)

a. Secular clergy (i.e., pastoral)

- benefice (prebend)
- tithes
- cathedral & rural chapters; deans and archdeacons

b. Regular clergy (i.e., monastic)

- Rule of St. Augustine (ca. 400); Rule of St. Benedict (ca. 540)
- Monastic: Carthusians (1084→); Cistercians (1098→); Premonstratensians (1121→), etc.

c. Mendicants

Franciscans (O.F.M.; 1210→): St. Bonaventure; Roger Bacon

Dominicans (O.P.; 1216→): Thomas Aquinas, Albertus Magnus

2. Laity (ca. 90% of population)

Medieval Christianity

II. Medieval piety (mixture of official doctrine and local practices and beliefs)

A. Intercessory

1. Earthly help:

- » 7 deadly sins
- » priests and 7 sacraments; *ex opere operato*
- » purgatory
 - Mass & chantries
 - Indulgences & Treasury of Merit

2. Heavenly help

- Christ: Five Wounds, Holy Name, Sacred Heart, Corpus Christi; crucifix; Stations of the Cross
- Virgin Mary: Ave Maria, rosary; Assumption (8/15); Holy House at Loreto
- Angels: messengers and protectors
- Saints

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II. Medieval Piety (continued)

B. Ritualistic

1. The Mass: censer, chalice, monstrance

2. Feast days

» Daily: 8 divine offices & bells

» Seasonal: Advent → Xmas; Lent → Easter

3. Sacraments, sacramentals &
magic/superstition

- Candles, palms, holy water, votive masses, blessings, amulets

C. Corporate

1. Parish & town

2. Special groups

-Confraternities

-Disciplinati; flagellants

-Tertiaries

-Devotio moderna; Brothers & Sisters of the Modern Life