

The Reformation

Context, Characters

Controversies, Consequences

Class 2: Medieval Christianity

Class 2 Goals

- Consider the structure of late medieval Christianity.
- Examine the physical representations of Christ in the landscape of daily life.
- Explore early challenges to Church authority and the problems facing the Papacy in the late Medieval period.

Opening Question

- What was your earliest impression of Catholicism?
- Was this formed from inside the Catholic Church or as an outside observer?



Holy See (Vatican)

Sistine Chapel

Vatican City

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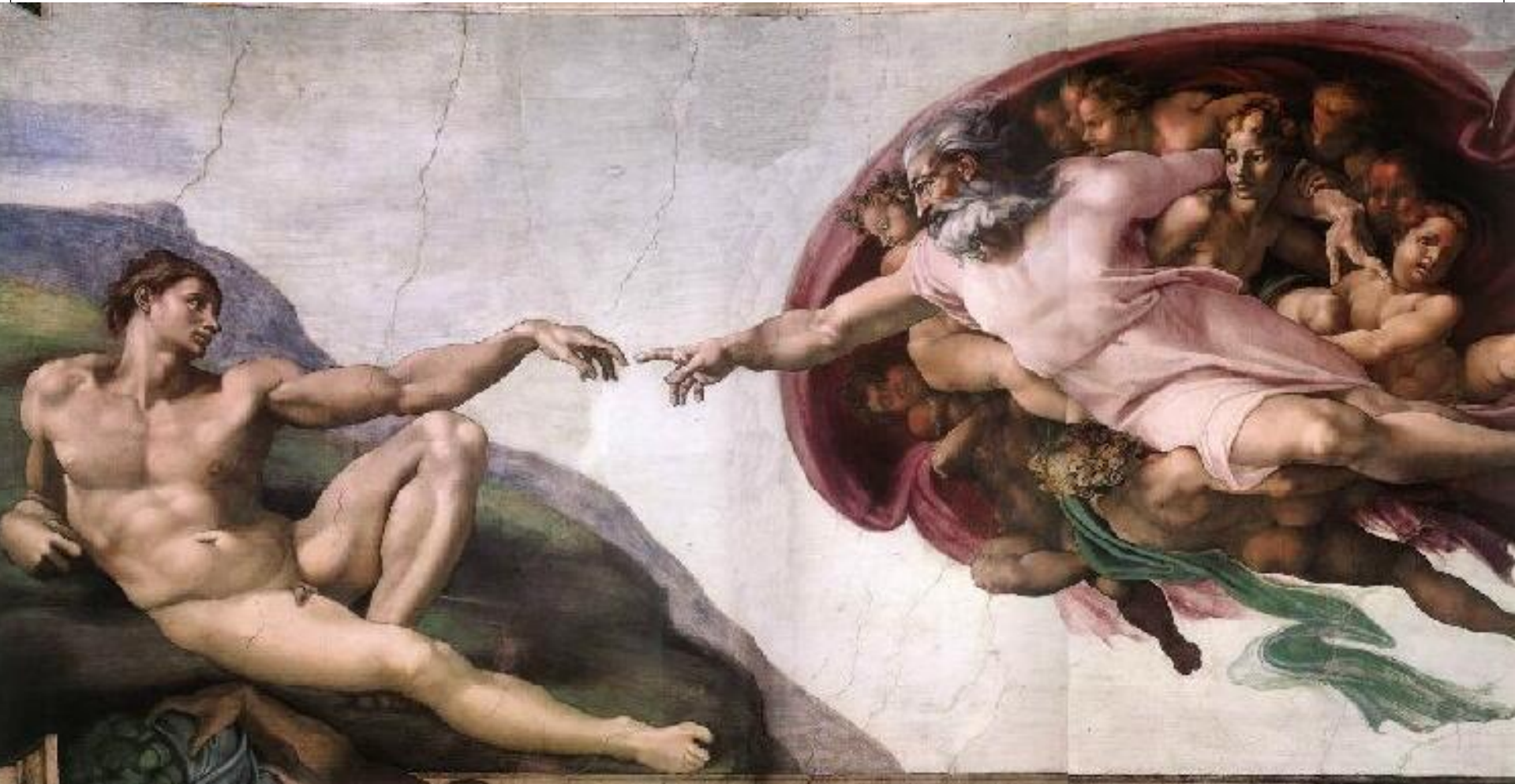
A Tour of St. Peter's Square







The Sistine Chapel





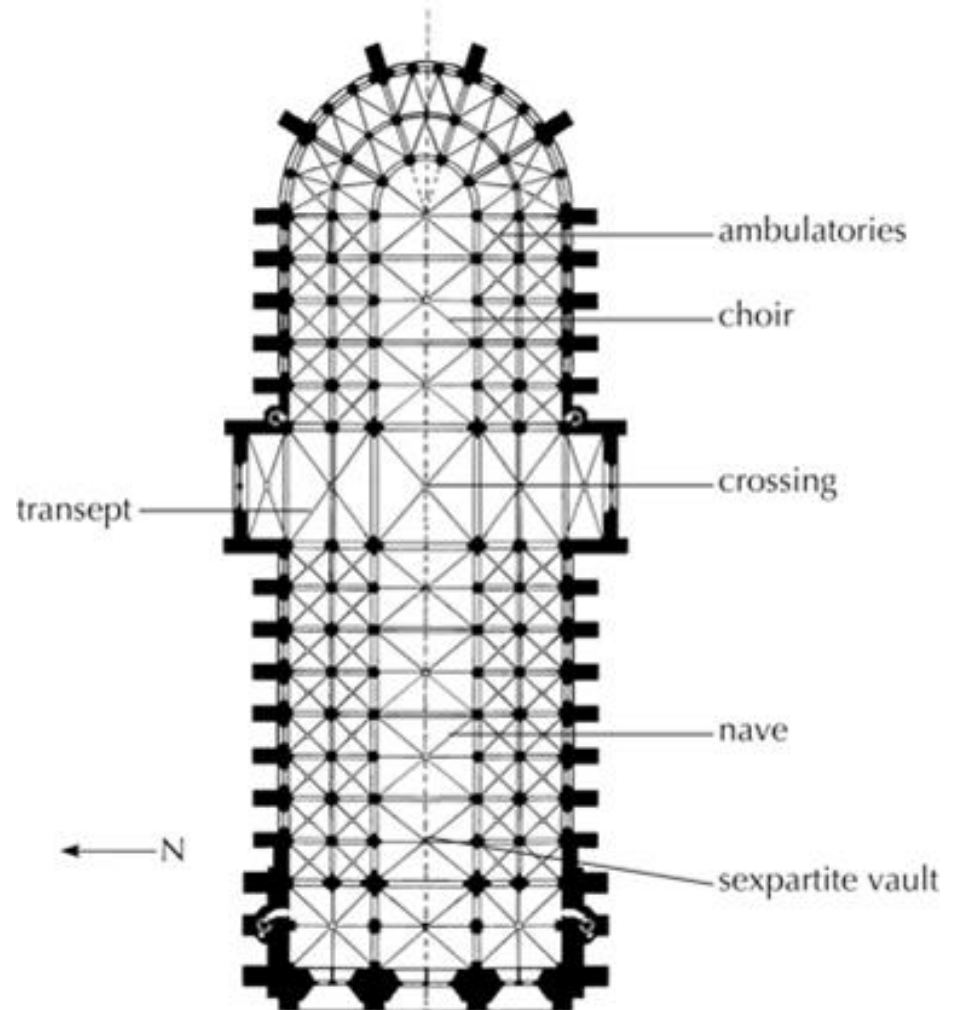


Christian Geography

- The Parish – centered around a particular church, the geographic area under its influence – boundaries varied and porous
- Diocese – a combination of parishes led by a bishop and centered on a Cathedral
 - (The Bishop would ordain priests – enforce church rules and compose the missal (text of the mass))
- The Pope (an elective office) oversaw the temporal (including direct rule over the papal states) and ecclesiastical power of the church.

Cathedral Floor Plan

- East-West Orientation
- Built in cruciform shape
- Built with collaboration of architects, theologians, and craftsmen
- Portal – marked boundary between outside world and sacred space
- Images illustrated the gospel and showed the lives of saints



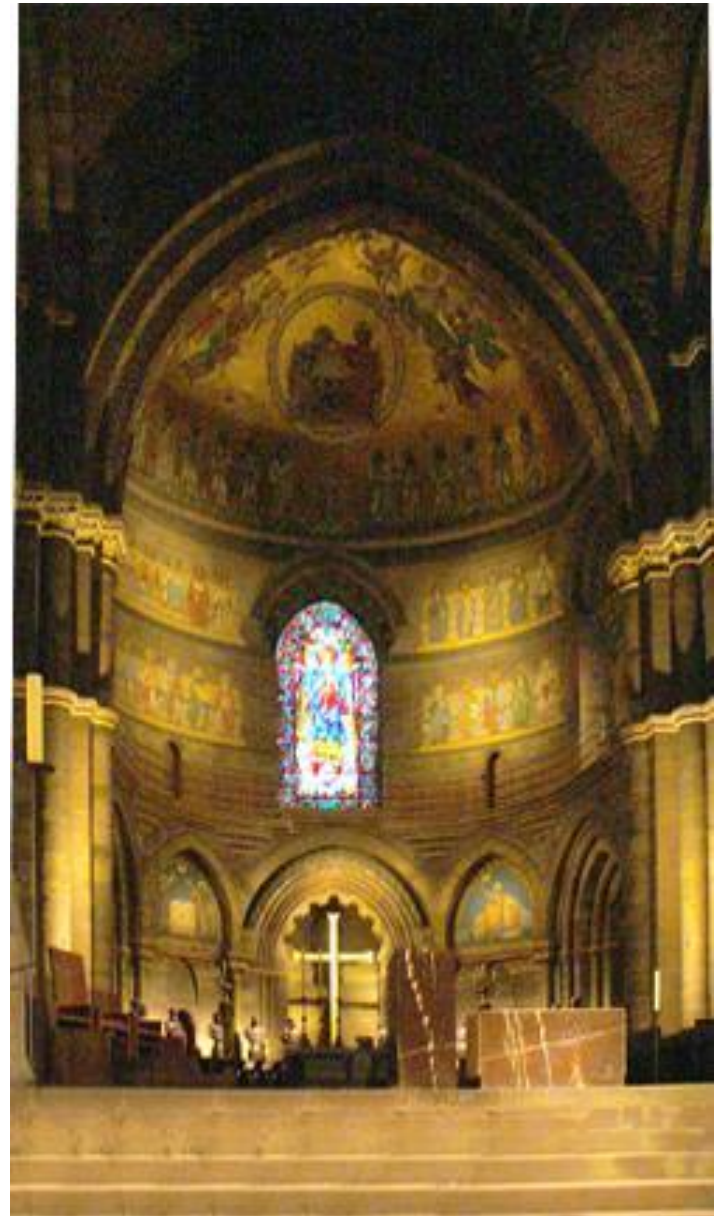
Mary and Saints

- Relics of saints often held in churches
- Processions led around churches or cities
- Celebration of saints days with feasting and special services.
- Images used with chants, songs, and plays to communicate the message



Altars

- Center of devotional life
- Large churches had up to 40
- Often elaborately decorated with candelabra, a crucifix, a paten for the host and the wine in a cruet.
- The celebration of the mass varied based on local tradition.
- Transubstantiation – introduced in 1215 Fourth Lateran Council
- Only a priest can perform the “miracle of the mass.”





Considering a Document

- **Author:**
- **Place and Time:**
- **Prior Knowledge:**
- **Audience:**
- **Reason:**
- **The Main Idea:**
- **Significance:**

Embodying Christ

- Dominicans (1216) The Order of Preachers —
 - Wore black and white habits to symbolize a life of preaching and austerity
- Franciscans (1221) The Order of the Friars Minor
 - Often preached in open air settings
 - Emphasized Obedience, Poverty, and Chastity
 - Wore brown habits to signify poverty and humility
- Benedictines (529)
 - Wore black habits to symbolize a life removed from the world in obedience to God
- Cistercians (1098)
 - Wore white to symbolize a life of silent prayer and radical simplicity

The Sacraments

- Required an ordained priest holding “the office of the keys”
- “A visible form of invisible grace” – Augustine
- Baptism – Initiation into Christianity
- Confirmation – became an “adult” Christian (at seven)
- Last Rites – prepared a person for death
- Penance – contrition of individual and confession of sin
- Communion – reception of Christ’s body in the eucharist
- Ordination – transferred a man into a priest
- Marriage – joined two believers together

Time

- The Liturgical Calendar
 - Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost
 - Major Feast Days (All Saints Day, Corpus Christi, Feast of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29), John the Baptist Day (June 24), St. Francis (October 4))
 - Altar cloths and vestments changed colors to mark the calendar
 - The Hours – bells would ring to call monks to pray
 - Matins – middle of the night
 - Lauds – morning
 - Terce – midmorning
 - Sext – midday
 - None – midafternoon
 - Vespers – eventide
 - Compline – night

Early Challenges to Catholicism

- John Wycliffe (1320-1384)
 - Early translator of the Bible into English
 - Claimed state could strip corrupt clergy of endowments
 - No warrant for papal temporal power
 - Appealed to reform of the Church by the English Government
 - Condemned by English Synods, Pope Gregory XI and the council of Constance.
 - His body was exhumed and burned at the stake.



The Hussites

- Jan Hus (1369-1415)
 - Inspired by Wycliffe and translated some of his works into Czech.
 - Rector of the University of Prague
 - Preached fiery sermons denouncing the immorality of the papacy.
 - Called for the wine, as well as the bread to be given to the laity
 - He was condemned and executed at the council of Constance (1415)
 - His death was seen as paralleling the crucifixion of Christ by his followers



The Troubled Papacy

- The Babylonian Captivity – 1309-1378
 - The Papacy was relocated to Avignon and secured the protection of the French Crown
 - During this time there were a series of attacks on the power of the pope and the church
- The Great Schism
 - Urban VI elected pope in 1378
 - Cardinals changed their mind and elected Clement VII (Urban VI refused to step down.)
 - Europe split in its obedience to the two popes
 - Council held at Pisa in 1409 decided to depose both popes and elect Alexander V – resulting in three popes

The Troubled Papacy II

- Alexander V died and was replaced by John XXIII a successful military leader and pirate.
- The council of Constance deposed John and he was imprisoned.
- In 1417 the council deposed all three popes and elected Martin V finally reunifying the church.
- Alexander VI (1431-1503, 1492) – had many mistresses and children, poisoned opponents and patronized the arts
 - His son Cesare Borgia may have been the model for *The Prince*
- Julius II (1443-1513, 1503) – Rebuilt St. Peter's (selling indulgences to fund the project), personally led his troops in battle, and provoked the ire of Erasmus and others.



Next Week

- The World in 1500