

The Catholic Church

During the Middle Ages, Christianity came in one form: Catholicism.

It wasn't until the 1500s that the Christian community was divided into Catholicism and Protestantism.

In the 1200s, the Catholic Community saw a divide between Roman Catholics and Greek Orthodox; however, these two communities maintained the same Catholic principles.

The Power of the Church

- The Church was more powerful than kings or nobles.
- It made kings by officiating at their coronation and unmade kings by excommunicating them.
- The Church had its own government, laws, courts, and system of taxation.
- It provided education through its schools, monasteries, and convents.

Middle Ages: Focus

- Missionary work was most important as the focus was on converting non-Christians.
 - St. Patrick went to Ireland in 432 CE
- By 1100, most of Europe was Christian.



Church Organization

- Priests served in local areas called parishes.
 - A small church and a house for a priest, served by the faithful from the village and surrounding countryside.
- Education became a primary function of the Church.

Parish Church



Cathedr al of Notre Dame

Construction:
1163-1345

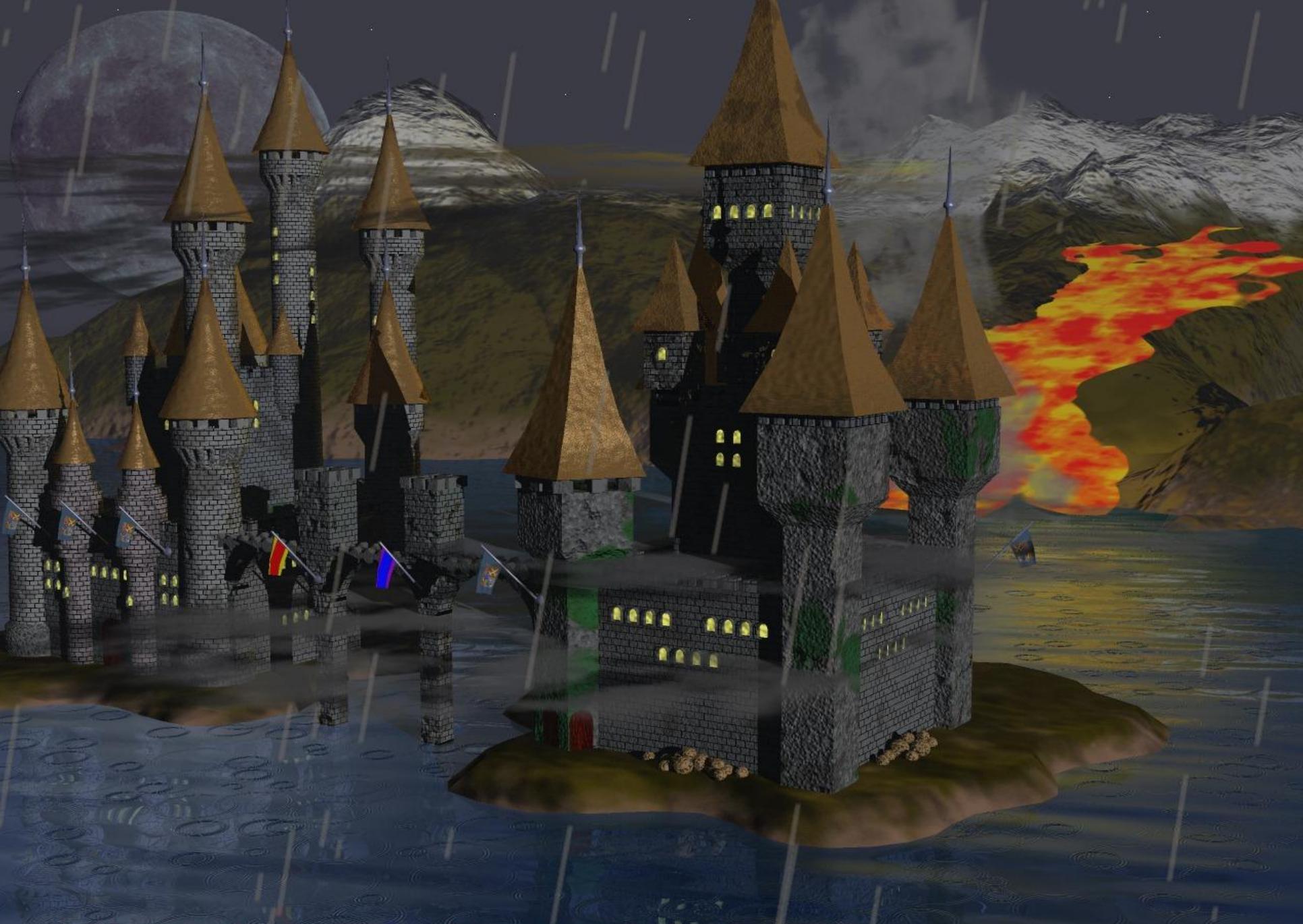


Money, Money, Money

- Every year, the village priest collected a TAX called a TITHE
 - One-tenth of a person's income.
- The money was used to build churches, monasteries, convents, fund charities, hospitals, and schools.

Monastery





Castle



Formation

- The pope (father) was the head of the Church.
- The pope set down church teachings (doctrines) to be followed throughout Christian Europe.

The Inquisition

- “inquiry”
- “investigation”
- A special court to deal with the serious offence of “heresy”
- Heretics held different beliefs from those of the Church (questioned church doctrine)
- An accused would be released with minor punishment if they confessed to the offence.
- If not, torture was used. A guilty person who did not confess was burned at the stake.
 - Galileo (1611)



Janulo s. Laurentis

Joan of Arc

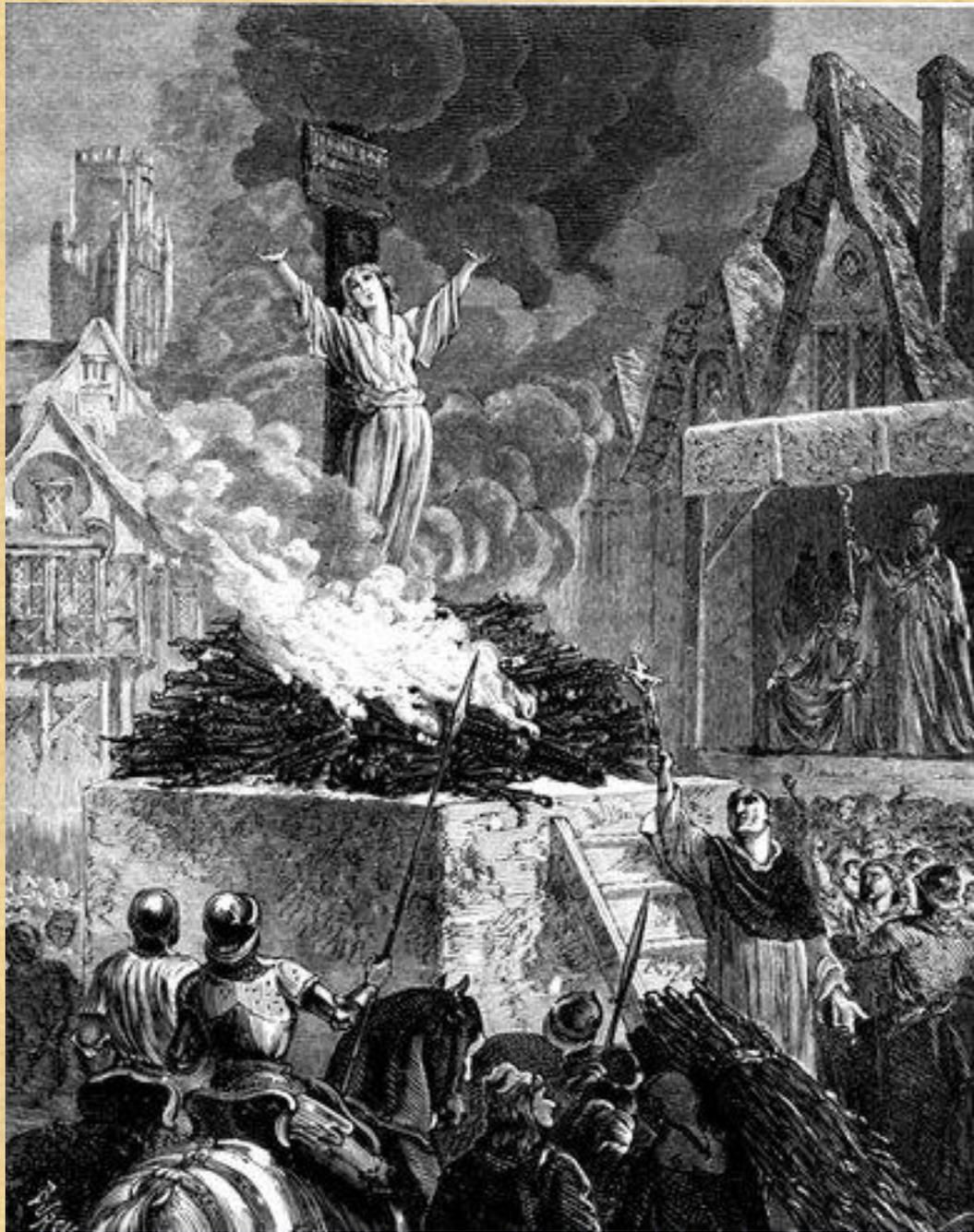
- 17-year old peasant girl from France
- In 1429, asked King Charles to command the army at Orleans during the 100 Years War
- Claimed she received a message from God in a dream.
- Won that battle.



Joan of Arc

- Fought in others but won no other.
- Captured by the people of Burgundy in 1430.
- The English tried her for witchcraft and burned her at the stake.
- She became a martyr for the French and they had won back all their territory by 1453.





Religious Orders

- Early Christians had the option of remaining single to become a monk or nun.
- A monk (Greek for single) lived alone without worldly possessions and devoted their lives to prayer. He would join others to form a community called a **MONASTERY**

Religious Orders

- Early Christians had the option of remaining single to become a monk or nun.
- A single female would usually enter a contemplative order and remain in prayer all day.
- Some nuns worked as educators or nurses.

RELICS

- An object or part of a person who became a saint, etc, that was saved was considered a RELIC.
 - Heart
 - Lock of hair
 - Snippet of clothing
 - Piece of the cross
- Pilgrims would come from far away to worship before them.

