

## Lecture 18: Medieval Monasticism and the Twelfth-Century Renaissance

### 1. *The Call of the Cloister*

- A. The New Monastic Orders
- B. Return to the Letter of the Rule
- C. Appeal of the Monastic Life – solitude and prayer

### 2. *Love of Learning in the 12th Century*

- A. Monastic Study: Reading like monks and nuns
- B. Reading, Writing, and Translating: Debate and Reconciliation
- C. Cathedral Schools and New Masters

### 3. *Cathedrals and Churches – praise in stone*

- A. From Romanesque to Gothic
- B. Humanizing Christ
- C. New Cult of Mary

*Conclusion:* Renaissance of the Twelfth-Century- a sense of living in a “new age”

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### New Monastic Orders

- 1) Hermits – Carthusians, ca. 1084
- 2) New Monks – Cistercians 1098  
(*Cisterciensis* (Latin) = Citeaux)  
Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)
- 3) Regular Canons = cathedral canons who lived like monks, communally  
(ca. 1120 – rule of Augustine)  
(*regula* (Latin) = Rule = Regulated life)
- 4) Knights of the Hospital = Hospitalers  
Knights Templar = Templars

Houses for Women: Paraclete and Fontevrault

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### Monastic Study and Cathedral Schools

**Lectio divino** = divine reading, study of the Bible

Three levels of Reading  
Proof Texts  
Debate literature

**Studio generalis** = General Studies – liberal arts

**Trivium:** grammar, rhetoric, and dialectic

**Quadrivium:** music, arithmetic, geometry, and astronomy

Cathedral schools of Laon and Chartres

Peter Abelard (ca. 1079-1142)

Heloise (ca. 1100-1163)

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

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### **Building in a new style: Romanesque to Gothic**

**Romanesque** – rounded arches in the Roman style

**Gothic** – a new ideal of light

*Features of gothic architecture:*

Pointed arches

Ribbed vaults

Flying buttresses

Stained glass

Begins at Abbey of St. Denis, ca. 1137-1144

Examples: Chartres Cathedral and Reims Cathedral (northern France)

New interest in humanizing forms and in naturalism (foliage design)

**Exterior:** function determines the form – “modernist” architecture

**Interior:** form and ideal guide design