Early Medieval Societies and Institutions

The Institution of the Catholic Church and New Practices

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (339-397)
Pope Gelasius I (p 492-496) and the Gelasian doctrine [spiritual and temporal]
Gregory I (p 590-604) and the “Papal States,” conversion of Ireland and England
Lupercalia Day, Saturnalia (Winter Solstice), Eostre, and the Sun
Time: Greek-776BCE, Roman-753BCE, Hebrew-3760BCE
Dionysius the Tiny (470-544 CE), AC – Ante Christum, AD – Anno Domini
Pope Gregory VII – Dictatus Papae (1075)
Trial by Ordeal

Monks
Monasticism [monk: l. monachus]
Early forms - St. Anthony (250-350 CE), St. Simeon (390-459 CE), Asceticism
Cenobitic monasticism – Saint Pachomius (290-346 CE)
Benedictine Monasticism, St. Benedict of Nursia (480-543)
Monte Cassino Monastery
Prayer, Work, Study, Spreading Christianity, Education

Saints
Polycarp – Bishop of Smyrna, martyred 155 CE, bones and relics
How to become a saint (Beatification, Canonization)
ex. St. George, St. Christopher, St. Celilia
St. Boniface and the Donar Oak
(Oak chopped down 723 CE, Boniface chopped down 754 CE)
Mary, the Council of Ephesus, 431 CE

The Franks and the closest thing to Western Empire
Clovis (r.481-511) and the Merovingians rule “Francia”
Charlemagne (Charles the Great) (r.768-814), Counties and “Missi Dominici”
The Carolingian Renaissance – the end of the “Dark Ages”?
The “Holy” Roman Empire
Changes in the institutions of marriage and family
Carolingian Minuscule
Charles the Bald, Louis the German, Lothair, and the Treaty of Verdun (843)

The Vikings (part I)
Scandinavians (Northmen, Norsemen, Normans) [Danes, Swedes, Norweigians]
Pirates and Explorers, the spread of Anglo-Saxon Culture – the raid on Lindisfarne (793 CE)
Paris (845), Kiev (1031)
The migrations of the Scandinavians: England, Europe, Normandy, Ireland, Iceland,
Greenland, Vinland - Eric the Red (950-1003 CE), Leif Ericson (970-1020 CE)

Feudalism
Kings, Lords, Vassals (Noble/Warrior class) - comitatus
Granting the Land – the “Fief” and the Manorial system
Working the land – Peasants and Serfs

Three Social Institutions of the Early Middle Ages: Nobles, Clergy, Peasants
Looking forward to the Middle Ages (Castles and Knights)
Top: Trial by Ordeal (boiling water), St. Boniface chops down the Donar Oak.

Middle: Charlemagne is crowned Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, December, 800 CE.

Bottom: Feudal relations, the Three Estates – Clergy, Nobility, Peasantry.