

# Summary Of Monday's Faith Talk By Canon Poucin

## “The Church Until The Year 1000 AD”

### Political situation at the fall of the Roman Empire of Occident (476):

-Italy: Ostrogoths, arian

North Africa: Vandales, pagans, persecute christians (St Augustin died in 430, in Hippone, under siege)

-Spain: Wisigoths, pagan or arian

-Gaule: split between Burgunds (South-East), arians; Franks (North) & Alamans (East), both pagan.

-Great Britain: invaded by Angles & Saxons at the beginning of 4<sup>th</sup> cent.

Native British are partly pelagian (Wales, Cornwalls & Britany). Along with Ireland (St Patrick (389-461)), Britain seems to be one of the last catholic places in the world.

The local Bishops needed to assume the political power to protect & defend the population (Pope St Leo the Great stopped Attila just before Rome: « *If you try to attack God in His City and His Sanctuary, God will break you* »).

### Religious situation:

Arian Crisis ended by the Councils of Nicea (325) & Constantinople (381).

#### Other Heresies:

-Donatism (against Bishop's authority).

-Manicheism (World ruled by two Gods: the good one for the spiritual, and the bad one for the creation and all the material things).

-Pelagism (Men have the initiative, Grace is only a secondary help).

-Nestorianism (Mary is not the Mother of God). Ended with Council of Ephesus(431).

-Monophysitism (only divine nature in Jesus' person). Ended with Council of Calcedon(451).

The Church quickly understood that to bring peace to the population, She needed to convert them, concentrating on the kings, as the population followed the monarch.

496: baptism of Clovis, King of Franks.

596: Mission of St Augustin of Canterbury, in England.

Germany converted by St Boniface.

800: Charlemagne is crowned Emperor of Occident by the Pope. To thank him, Charlemagne gave the Church a large territory around Rome: « The Patrimony of St Peter ». This was the beginning of the Papal States.

Time of the monastic expansion:  
St Benedict (Monte Cassino) founded the Benedictines. He wrote 'The Rule' in 543.

St Bruno founded the Cartusians near Grenoble (France).

St Bernard founded Clairvaux.

Europe is populated with Abbeys, where the monks are dedicated to prayer and work: *Ora et Labora* (Moto of the Benedictine monks). They also actively participate to the civilisation of Europe. A Monastery means a school, a library, and agriculture.