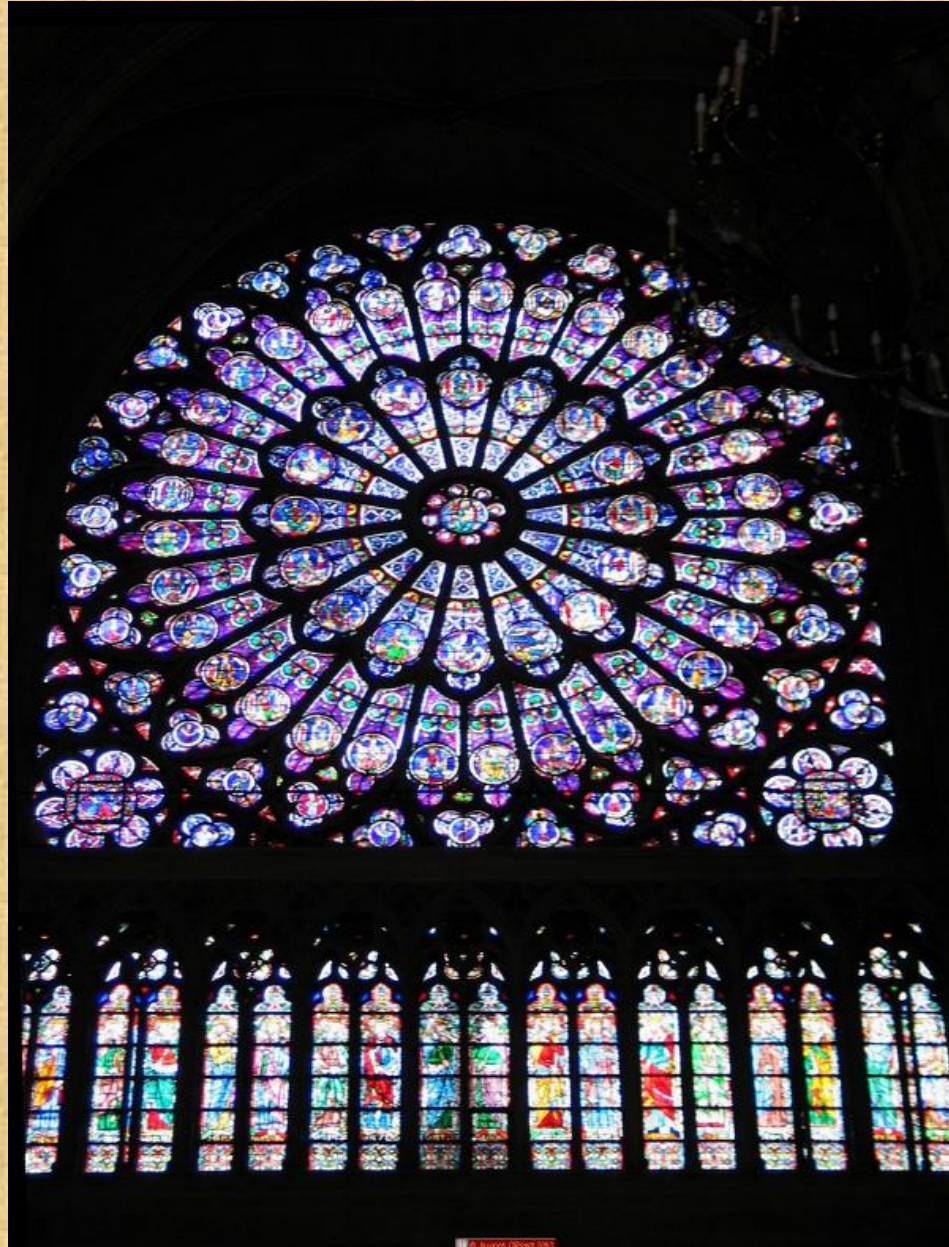


# CHRISTIANITY



# **Beginnings of Christianity**

- **Jesus born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth**
- **Quest for the historical Jesus**
- **Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke**
- **Jesus complained about**
  - **Missed the meaning while obeying the letter of the Law**
  - **Concerned with cast outs of society**
  - **Religious hypocrisy**



**Extent of Roman Empire at the time of Christ**



Mediterranean Sea

Capernaum

Sea of Galilee

**GALILEE**

Nazareth

Decapolis

Caesarea

**SAMARIA**

Samaria

Jordan River

**JUDEA**

Jerusalem

Jericho

Bethléhem

Dead Sea

**PALESTINE**

New Testament

# Christian Symbolism



**An interesting site for symbolism:**

**<http://home.att.net/~wegast/symbols/symbols.htm>**











**Constantine engaged  
Maxentius at the Milvian  
Bridge in Rome  
on October 28, 312 CE.**

**In a dream, he saw a sign,  
“In hoc signes vinces.”**

**Because of this single  
battle,  
the world changed.**

# **Paul's Spin on Christianity**

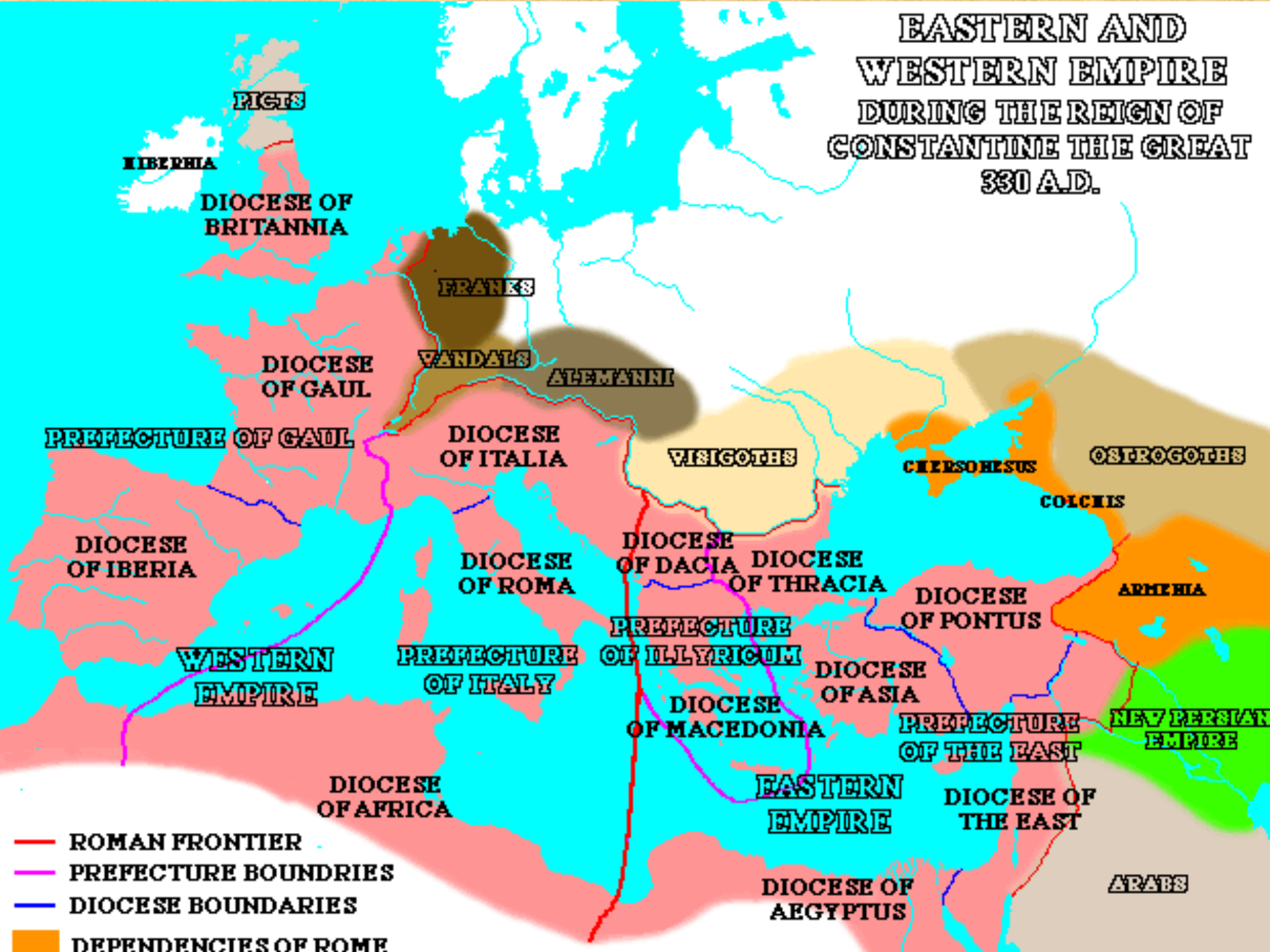
- **Paul moved Christianity from an Eastern to Western religion**
- **Paul straddled split between Eastern and Western thought**
- **Concern about universalizing the message and systematizing it**
- **Had it not been for the Roman roads, Europe and therefore America wouldn't be predominately Christian today**
- **Constantine and Edict of Milan (313)—legalized Christianity**

# **Language of Faith:**

## **a *brief* history of the fall of the Roman Empire--**

- **Diocletian divided the Empire into two administrative regions in 286: Western and Eastern Empire**
- **Constantine moves capital to Byzantium and renames it Constantinople in 330**
- **Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire under the reign of Theodosius I in 380**
- **The ascendancy of Byzantium—started in the early part of the 4th century but its hay day came with Justinian and Theodora in 527**

# EASTERN AND WESTERN EMPIRE DURING THE REIGN OF CONSTANTINE THE GREAT 330 A.D.



# **Church fills political vacuum in the West**

- **Leo the Great issues the Petrine Doctrine...therefore Rome rules (this adds to the friction between the church in the East and West)**
- **The Roman Catholic Church replaces the Roman Empire in West**

# Theology of the Christendom

- **Council of Nicaea 325—Christ was of the same essence as God**
- **Nicene Creed 380—verbal statement of theology**
- **Christian Monasticism—asceticism parallels other world religions**
- **Monte Cassino monastery founded in 529 by Benedict**
- **Women weren't accepted into the regular church hierarchy**



**Monte Cassino--restored**



**Monte  
Cassino  
after  
WWII**





## **Aerial view of Monte Cassino**

**an interesting site:**

**<http://sandy-travels.com/cassino.shtml>**



Power shift to the East by first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century

# Leaders of the Church

- **St. Jerome translated Bible into Latin—Vulgate version**
- **St. Ambrose wrote hymns**
- **Gregory the Great—organized the church in Rome**
- **St. Augustine of Hippo—great theologian of the church who had been a playboy prior to his conversion**

# Heresies of the Church

- **Apollinarianism--Jesus fully God and only incompletely human dealt with at Council of Constantinople in 381.**
- **Arianism--Jesus less than God but more than human (Nicene Creed dealt with Arianism).**
- **Docetism--Jesus wholly divine but he only seemed real (Ignatius dealt with Docetism).**
- **Ebionite--Jesus regarded as prophet rather than divine Word of God with emphasis on Jewish law and rejected Paul's teachings.**
- **Gnosticism--dualistic worldview, *gnosis* is Greek for "knowledge" only certain people got special knowledge for salvation**

# **Heresies of the Church cont.**

- **Manichaeism--Dualistic religion (good vs. evil, etc.) founded in Persia (Iran) by Syriac-speaking Manes (215-75 A.D.)**
- **Marcionism--Rejection of the Old Testament and the Judeo-tradition of Christianity.**
- **Monarchianism--Divided unity and sovereignty (monarchia) of God—a viewpoint appearing in the 3rd**
  - **Dynamic Monarchianism--Jesus was a human who became a God**
  - **Modalistic Monarchianism—thought of the Trinity as one God with different modes of divine action rather than distinct persons.**

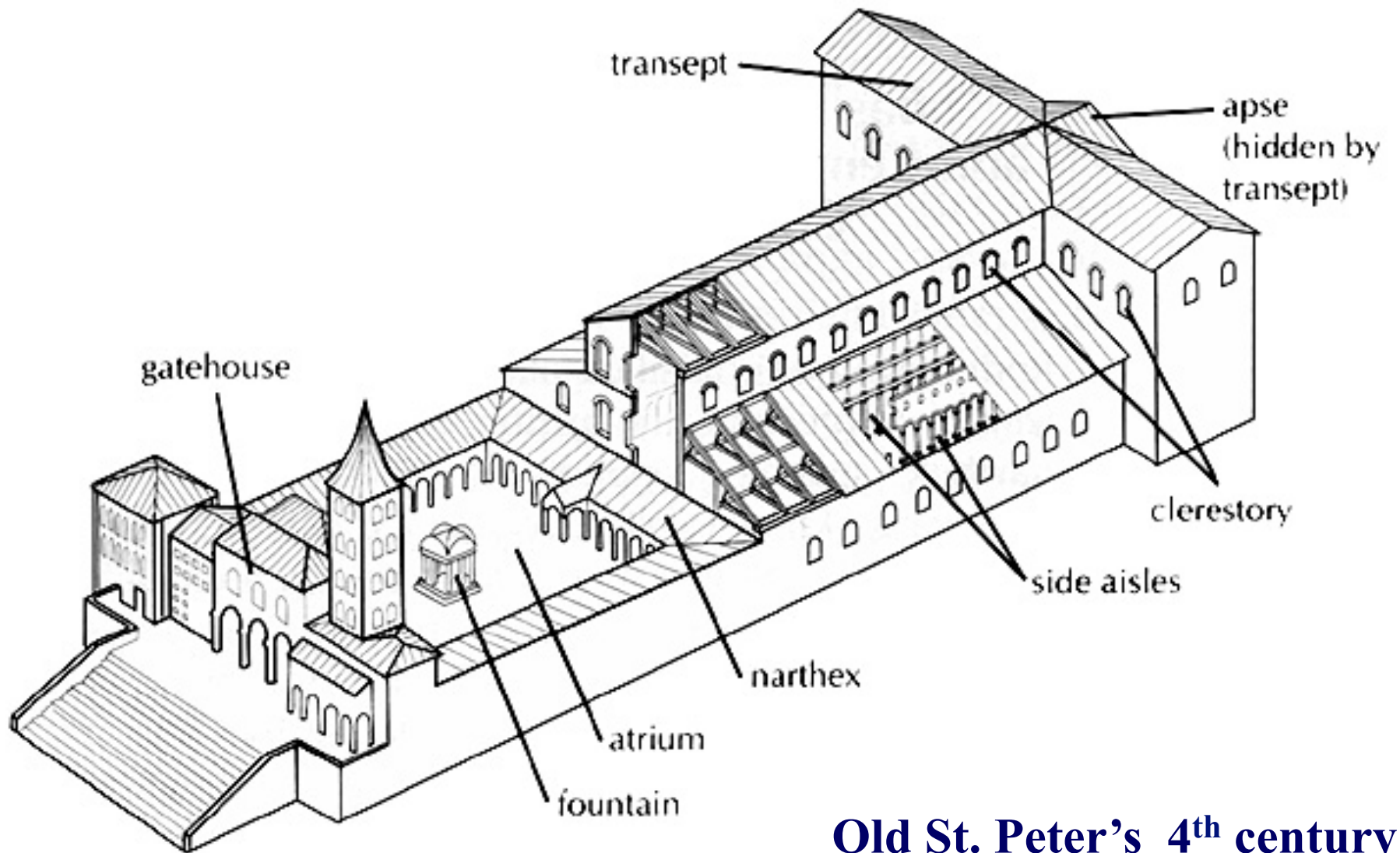
# **Heresies of the Church cont.**

- **Montanism--An apocalyptic movement emphasizing revelation named after its leader Montanus. Priscilla and Maximilla claimed that they received messages during ecstasy and that Christ's second coming was soon.**
- **Nestorianism believed that Mary was mother only of the human Jesus, not the the divine nature.**

# **Christian Architecture**

**Christian architecture reflected the context and place where the churches were built:**

- **The West generally built basilicas**
- **The East built domed Greek cross style**

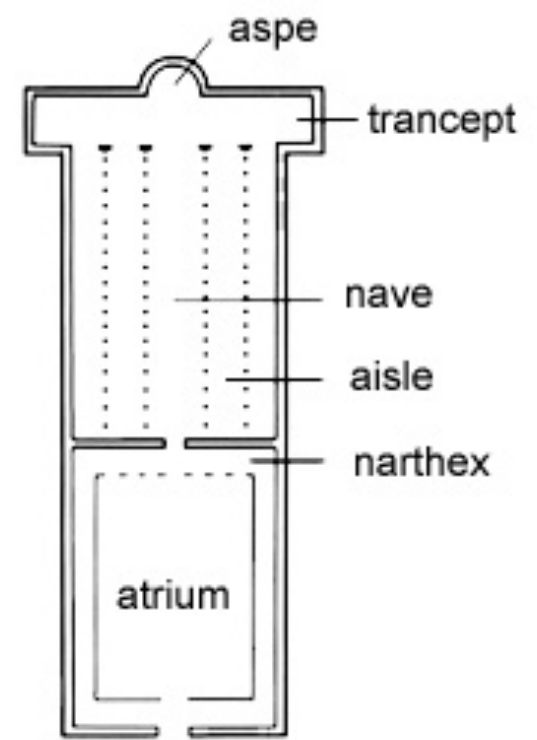
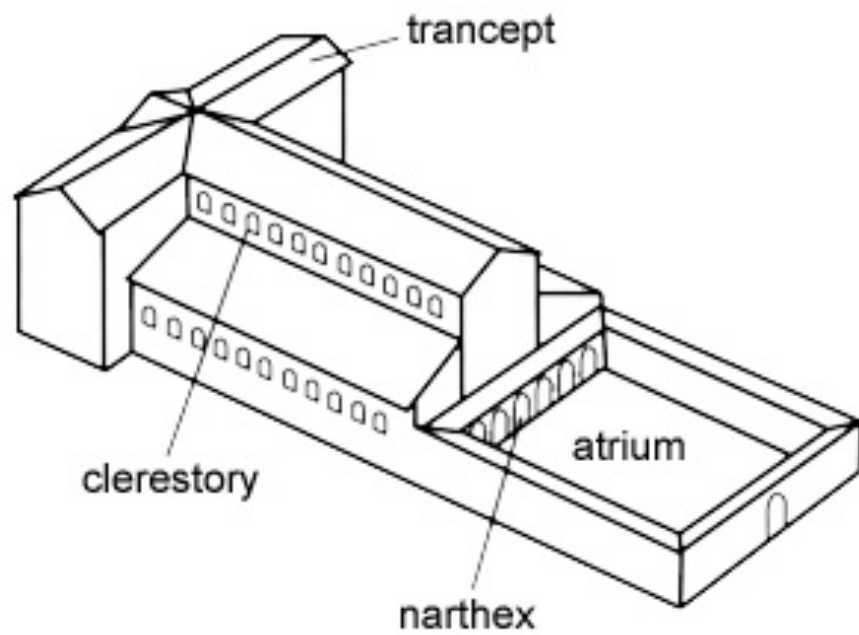


**Old St. Peter's 4<sup>th</sup> century**

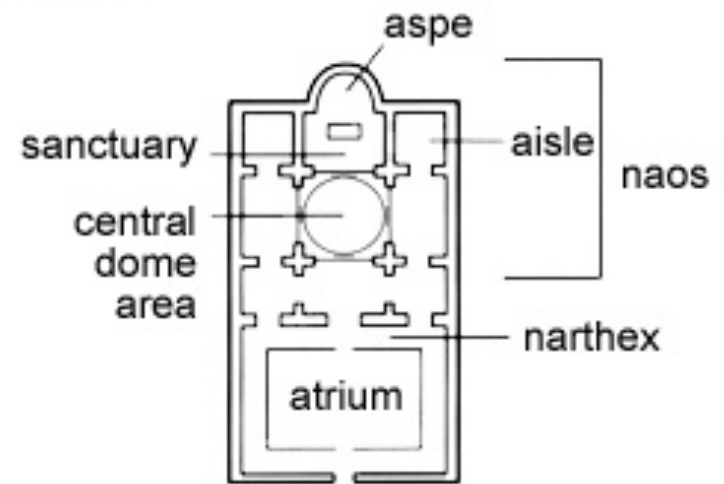
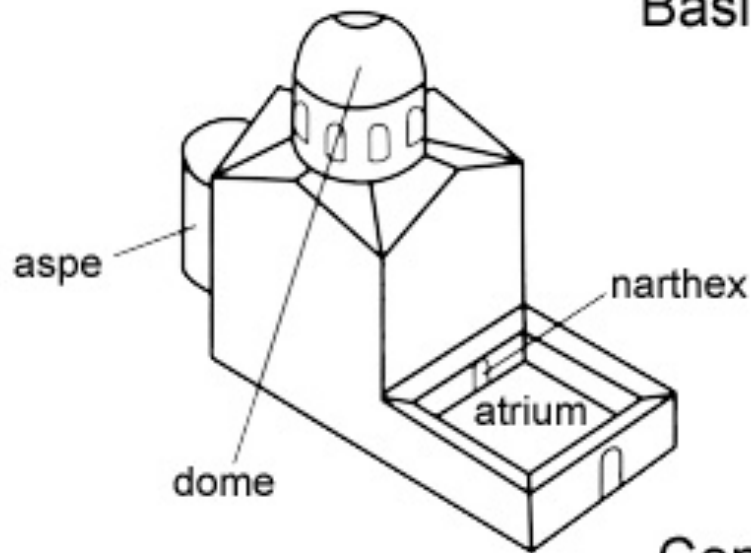




**Nave of the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, Rome 432-40**

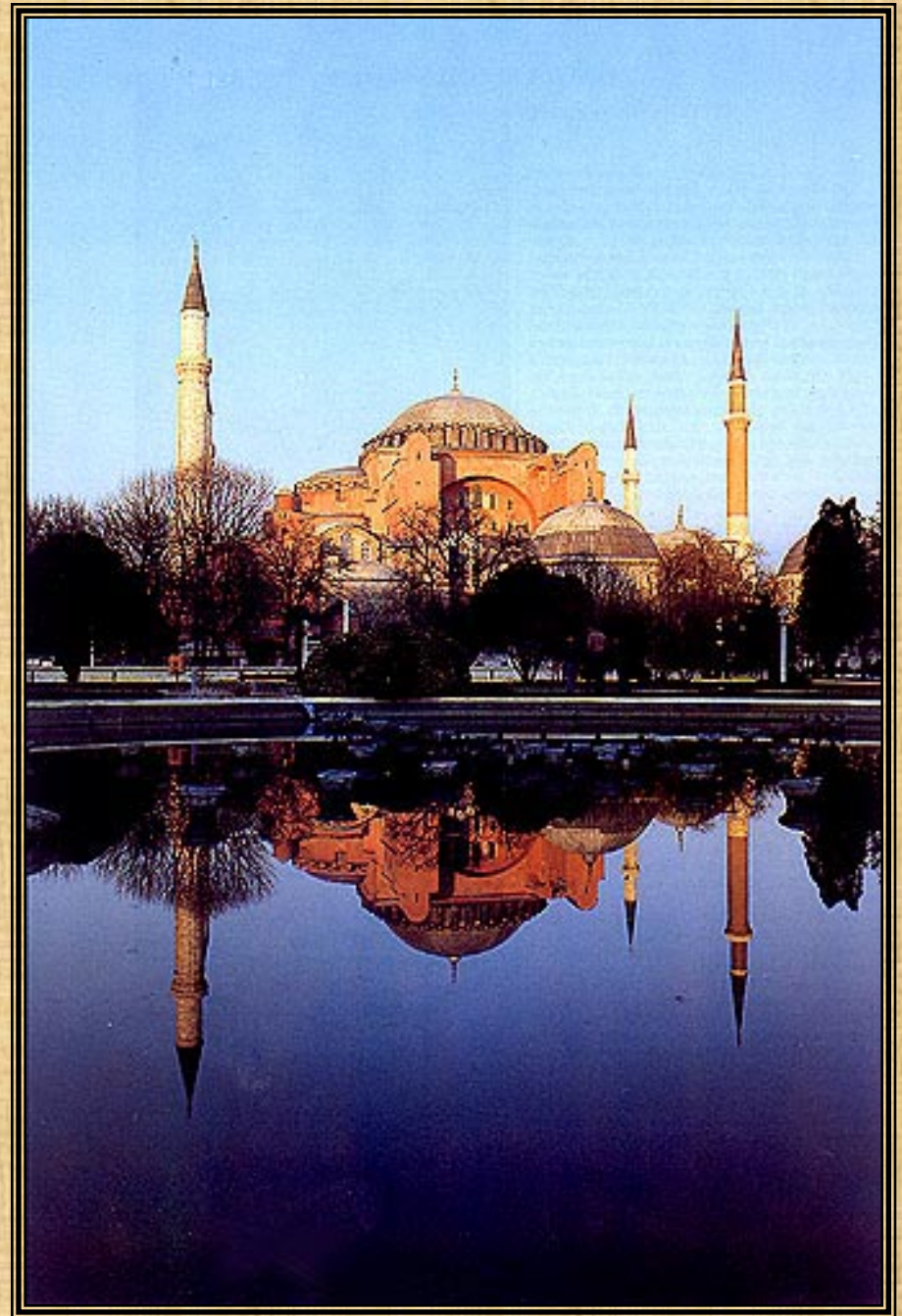


Basilica-plan church



Central-plan church

**Hagia Sophia ca. 532-37**  
**(184' high)**  
**compare with**  
**Cathedral Beauvais ca. 1247**  
**(157')**









# Byzantine Icons

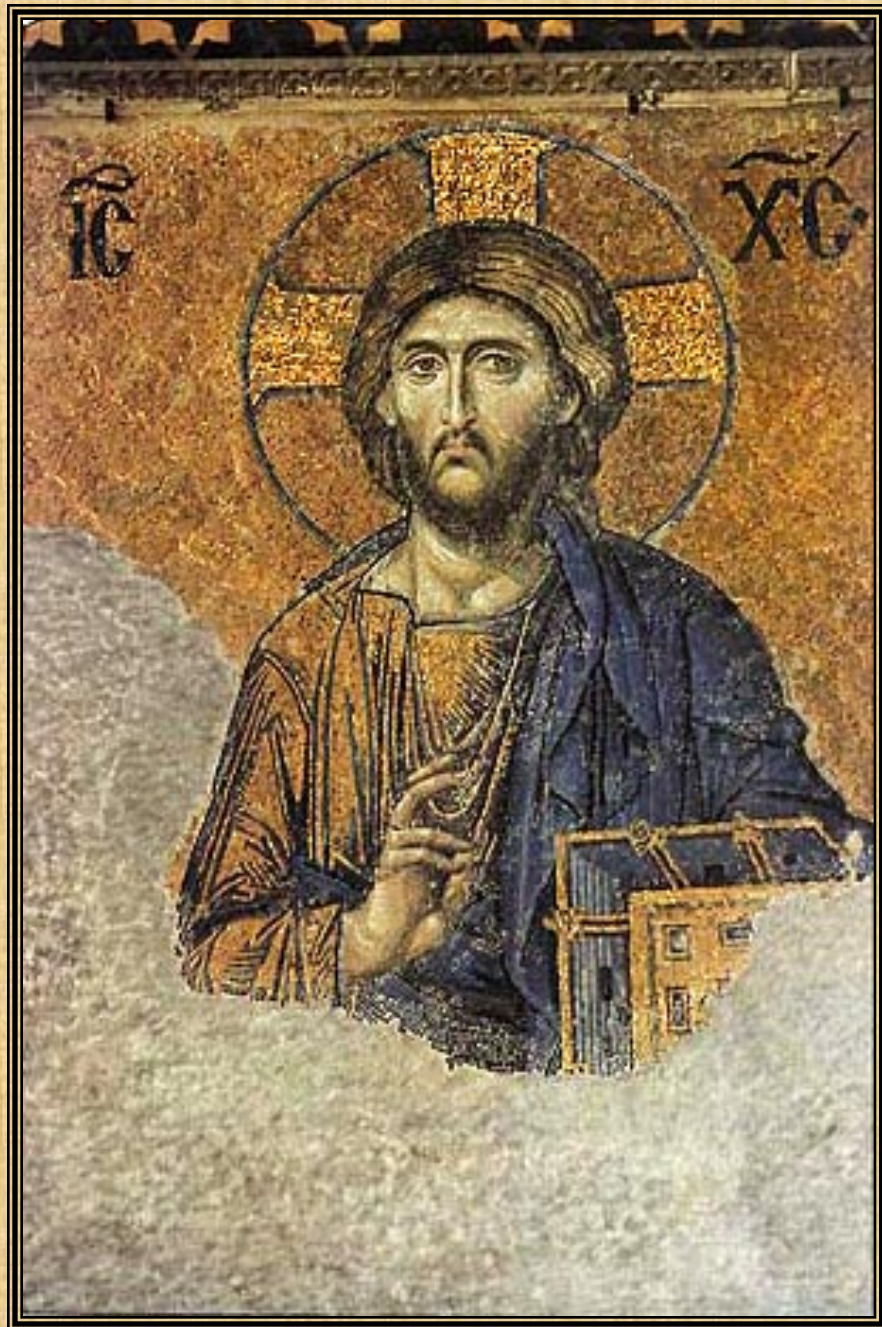
**Icons appear to be ironed flat**

**Religious reason behind icons was not to make a graven image of God or holy people**

**Icons merely pointed to the person**



**This icon isn't the same thing as that to which it points**





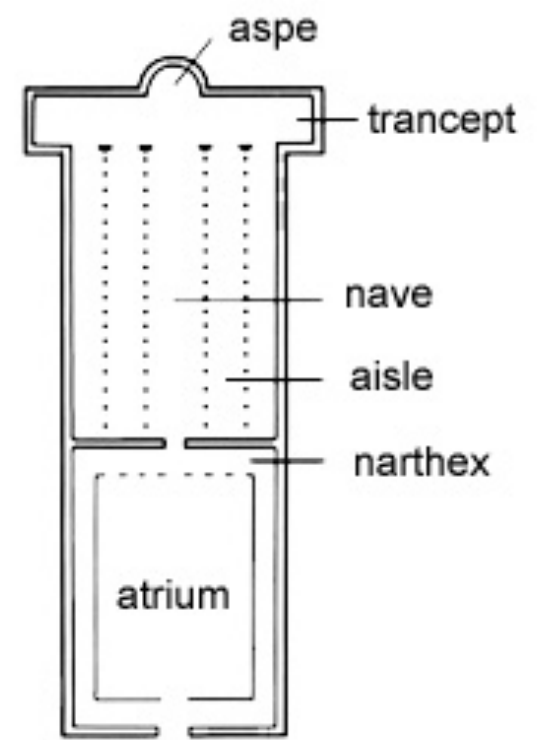
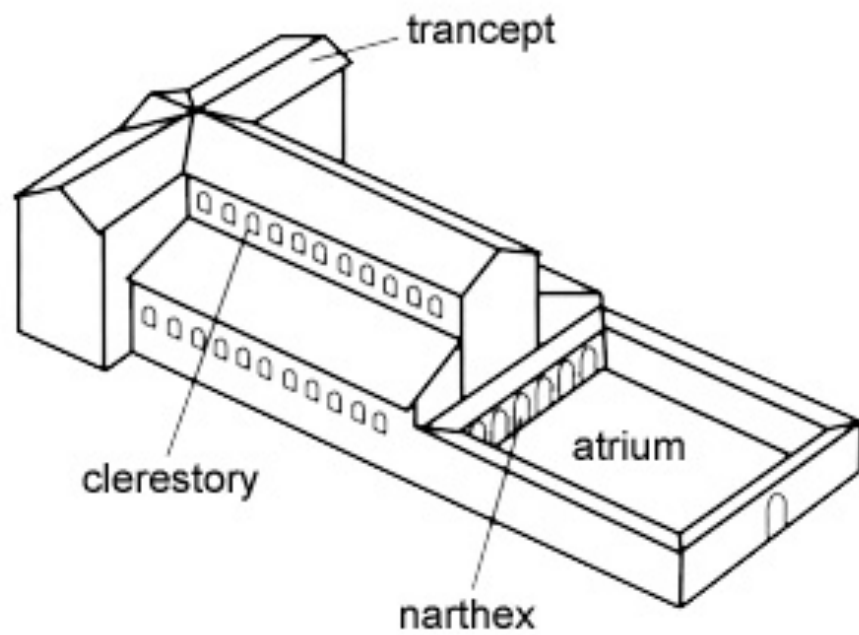
**Constantine at  
Hagia Sophia**



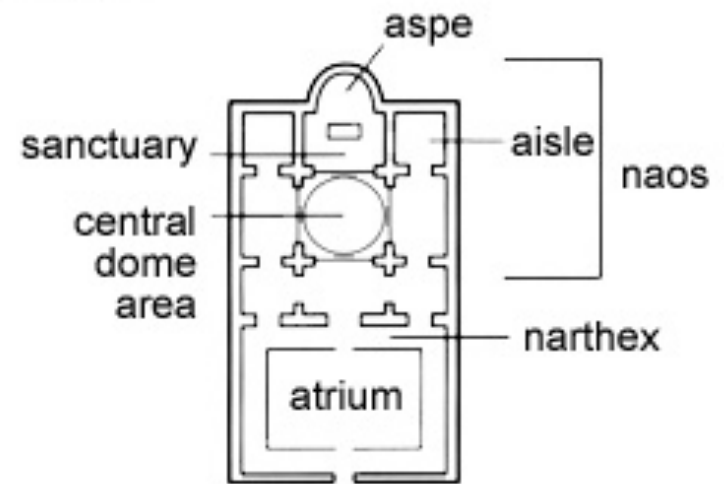
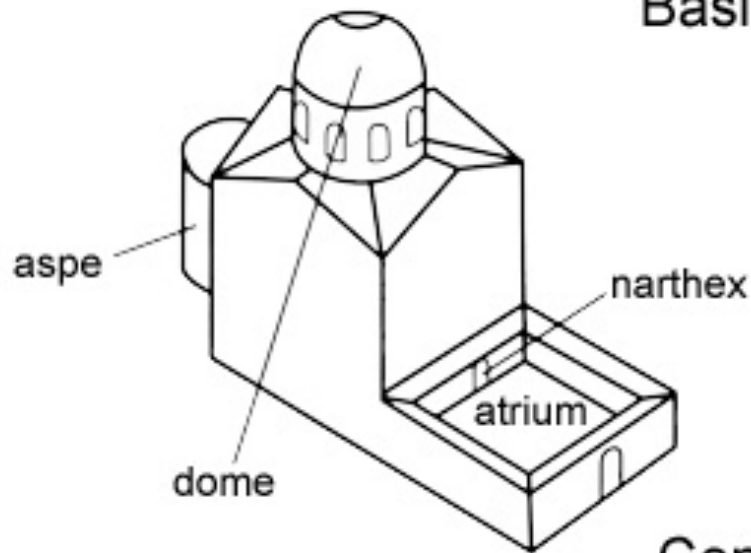


# **Justinian's Contributions**

- **Tried to reunite East and West with Constantinople as capital**
- **Codified Roman laws**
- **Silk production**
- **Gave Hagia Sophia and San Vitale, Ravenna**
- **Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**
- **Prince Vladimir was the first Christian czar of Russia because of Hagia Sophia**



Basilica-plan church



Central-plan church



**San Vitale, Ravenna**





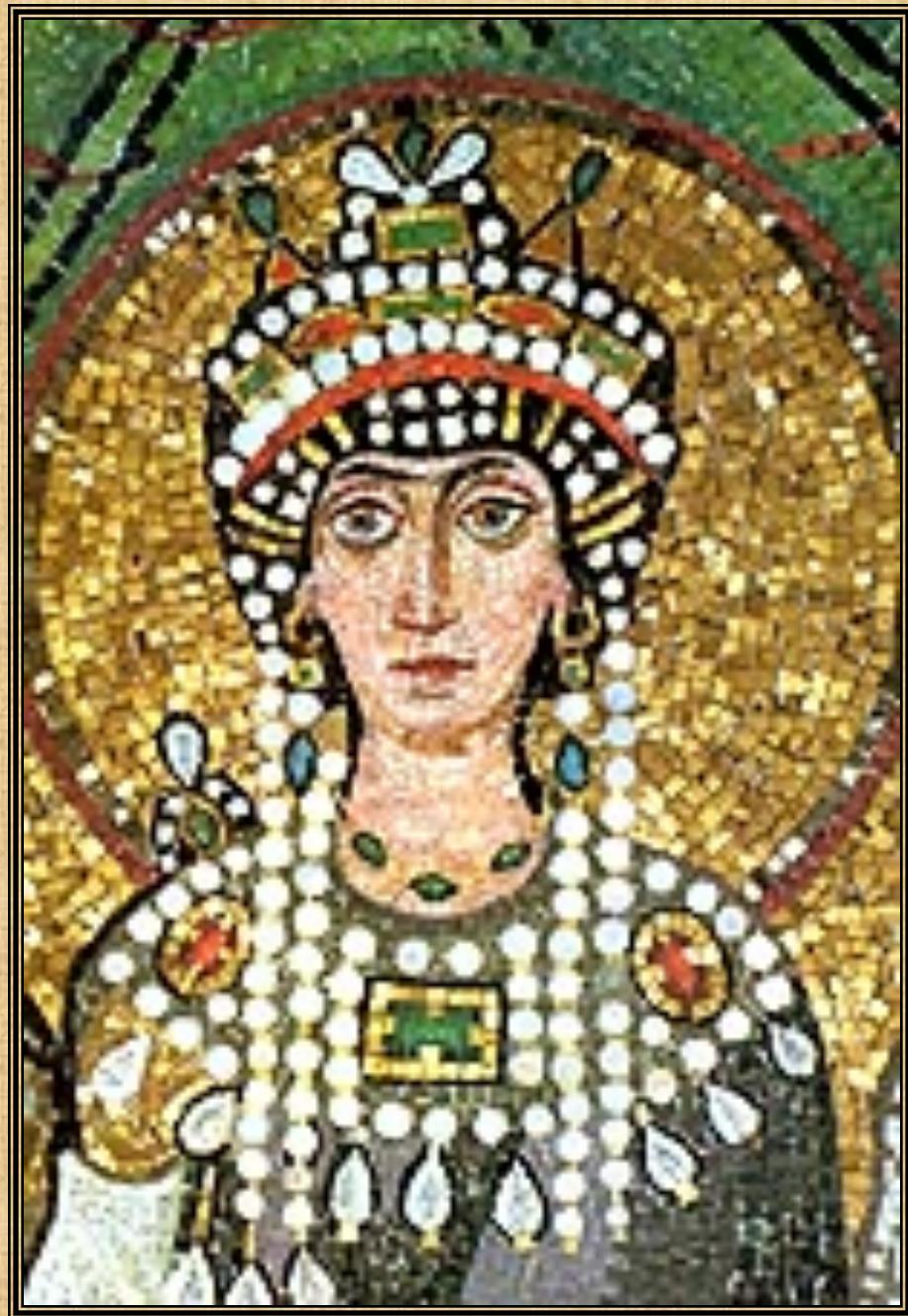
Emperor Justinian ca. 547







**Theodora ca. 547**





**Sant' Appollinare in Classe ca. 533-49**



**Sant' Appollinare  
interior**



**St. Mark's Venice ca. 1050**

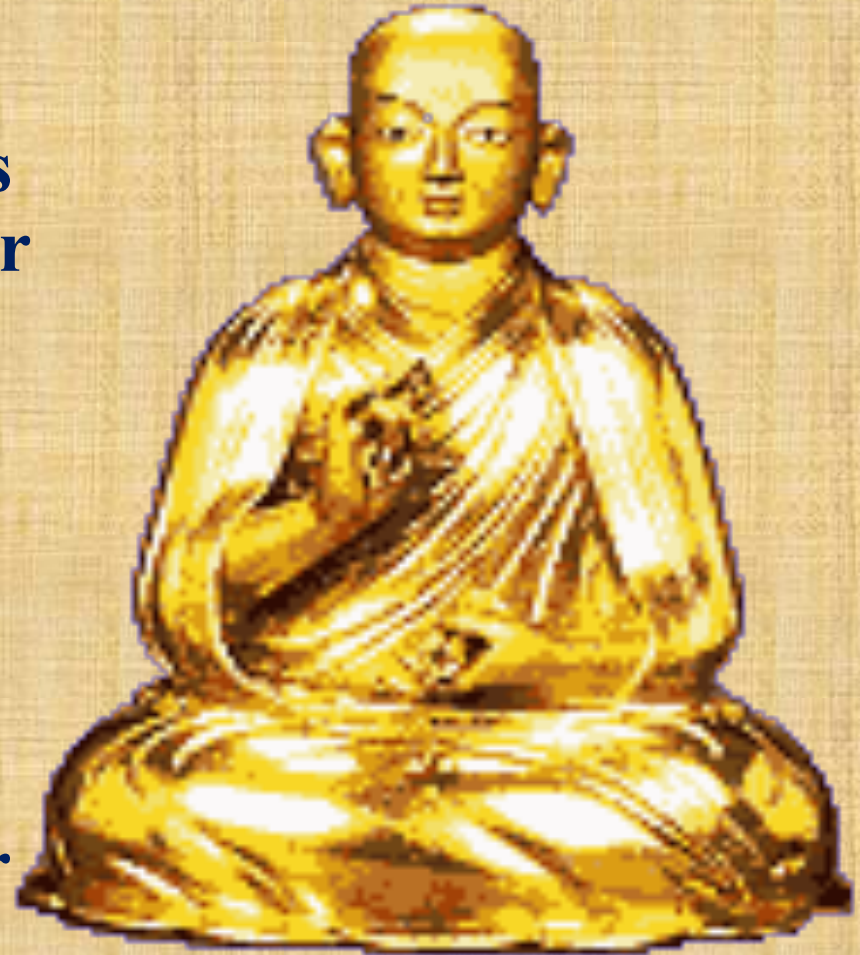


**Interior of St. Mark's**



# A moment of *double* Middle Age Zen

- **Crusades (1<sup>st</sup> Crusade 1095)** were designed to free the Holy Lands from the infidels who had been living there for centuries. The West didn't want them on holy land. Think of one of Osama bin Laden's complaints....
- **Where did the West discover their Greco-Roman culture?**  
**Hint: in the Arab world**





# **Brief history of the Early Middle Ages**

**(the Middle Ages begin with the fall of Rome to the Renaissance)**

- **Dark Ages (550-750) and monasticism**
- **Charlemagne—ruler, diplomat, and playboy (768-814)**
- **Leo III crowned him on Christmas Day 800 as Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire**
- **It has been said that the Holy Roman Empire was neither holy, Roman, nor an empire**
- **However, it lasted until the Austrian/Hungarian Empire, which fell in the aftermath of WWI**
- **Charlemagne upset Byzantine emperors with his delusions of Roman grandeur**

- **Charlemagne didn't get along with the Byzantine Emperor but seemed to have gotten along with the Muslims. Charles Martel, grandfather of CM, stopped the spread of Islam in 732**
- **CM became protector of the holy shrines in Holy Lands**
- **Learning during the time of CM—who couldn't write—but he brought education to Aachen**
- **Set-up an educational head-start system for his kingdom**
- **Decree of 798—local leaders were to start schools**
- **Feudalistic society—France, Germany, Low Countries, Italy pyramidal social structure**
- **Music: Gregorian Chants or plainsongs**

# **Brief history of the Reformation**

**The Protestant Reformation came at the nexus of the Renaissance (secularism) and the rise of nationalism**

**Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, and Knox major players**

**Indulgences, Lord's Supper, and authority of Scripture were some of the major issues dividing Christendom**

# Some interesting sites

<http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/bible/timeline.stm>

<http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hm/06/hm06.htm>