The Rise and Development of Christian Monasticism
### Three Models of Christian Monasticism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Eremitic</th>
<th>Cenobitic</th>
<th>Anchoritic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Antony of Egypt</strong> (ca. 251-356 C.E.)</td>
<td><strong>Pachomius</strong> (ca. 292-346 C.E.)</td>
<td><strong>Basil the Great</strong> (330-379 C.E.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alexandria</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alexandria</strong></td>
<td><strong>Caesarea</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Complete isolation of the individual</strong></td>
<td><strong>Organized into independent, self-supporting communities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Self-supporting communities under the authority of the bishop</strong></td>
<td><strong>Emphasis on activities of social welfare, love of the world</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Demanded extreme asceticism and self-denial</strong></td>
<td><strong>Emphasis on the practice of love toward one another</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focused on personal spiritual discipline and development</strong></td>
<td><strong>Focused on regular, corporate worship</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Westward Spread of Christian Monasticism

From its origins in Egypt, Palestine, Syria, and Mesopotamia, Christian monasticism spread to Western Europe beginning in the late 5th century.
The Contribution of Benedict of Nursia (480-547)

- Brief biography
- Monastery at Monte Cassino, Italy
- Benedict’s Rule (529)
- The concept of Opus Dei ("God’s work")
- Pope Gregory’s Dialogues (ca. 595)
- Benedict’s Rule as normative in the West
Western Monasticism in the Middle Ages

- Foundation, patronage, and benefaction
- Sources of income
- Organization and hierarchy
- Becoming a monk or nun
- A life of worship

Though varying greatly in size, medieval monasteries were architecturally similar.
Monasticism in the High Middle Ages

- Monastic decline
- The Cluniac reforms (10th and 11th c.)
- Other forms of monastic renewal
- Robert of Molesme (1028-1111) and the Cistercians (1098)
- The decline of medieval monasticism to about 1200

Robert of Molesme, as depicted in an engraving from the 16th c.

Source: www.images.fineartamerica.com