MONASTICISM

"Sorry, Brother Jerome — the Archbishop nixed your 'Casual Friday' idea."

Monasticism

- a movement of men & women away from the world to pursue holiness
  - main focus: charism
    - a special grace of the Holy Spirit given for the good of the Church
  - most important lesson: love
  - showed hospitality towards travelers
  - communal monastic life: attention to the poor & sick
- ppl who retreat from everyday life to answer these questions:
  - who am I really?
  - where is my God?
  - what are my "demons"?
  - what is my faith really made of?
- @ 1st most monks & nuns lived as hermits
- later they banded together to form small communities

Chapel Reflection: Deep Thoughts

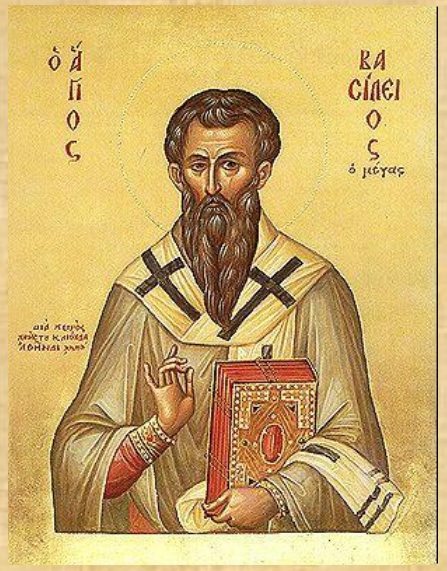
- Who am I really?
- Where is my God?
- What are my “demons”?
- What is my faith?

Antony of Egypt

- remembered how the Apostles had sold their possessions & given $ to the poor
- heard the story of Jesus telling the rich man to give up his worldly possessions & follow him
  - decides to do this!
    - sold his farm, gave $ to the needy, found someone to take care of his sister
- ppl saw him as a teacher
  - searched for him to ask for advice

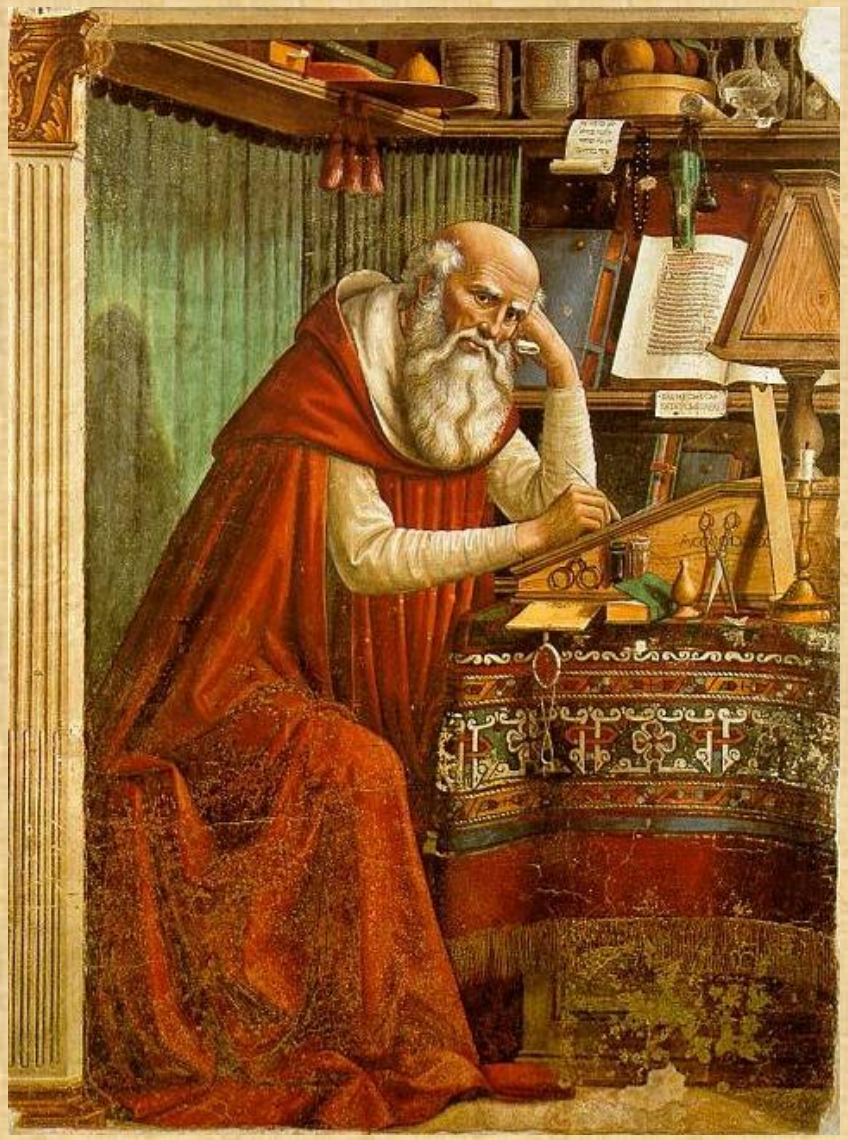
Basil: Communal Monastic Life

- 4th century monk & bishop who felt monastic life shouldn't be determined by individual monks' ideas
- decided to form them into a religious community
- developed a rule of life that stressed simple living
  - owned almost nothing
  - eat only what is necessary
  - obey the abbot of the monastery
    - abbot's role: apply the Gospel to everyday life



Jerome & The Ladies

- translated the Bible from Hebrew/Greek to Latin
  - The Latin Vulgate
- encouraged women to form a convent
- moved to the Holy Land, built a monastery & several convents



ANY
QUESTIONS?