

Church History Sr. 7

did not come from Rome. It came from an abbey founded up there in Cluny, a place where Christian men gathered and studied the Word and went out to present it. The influence from this abbey went in many directions. Many others were founded as a result of people coming from it. Eventually a number of popes came who had been monks in this abbey. Of course, eventually, as all human organizations do, it fell into bad days and the time came when the abbots of Cluny were spending their days in the court of the French king in riotous living on wealth they received from the abbey which was living on its past reputation. For a period of some centuries it was a great center of the spread of real Christian the Christian living . Doubtless the bulk of the men from it were real Christians . (Student) Yes. These are notfriars. The friars come two centuries later. These are men who stay in the monasteries. They might go out during the day to work but they stayed there. They might preach in a church near. They did not wander from place to place. (Student) Well, many of the men took positions elsewhere after being there for a time and some of them went and founded other abbeys and therefore their influence was spread but it was not, the friars are a new invention two hundred years later. Yes? (Student) By gifts of people. At first they spent most of their day in silence, only talking to one another in signs, but they ate very abstemiously, they were careful to try to keep the material side of life at a minimum, devoted a certain amount of the day to studying the Bible and to scholarly studies and then a certain amount to physical work for the upbuilding of the monastery and they did things with their own hands about the monastery and they made things that they sold and, of course, they had a certain support from the cult who had founded it, originally, but then as its fame spread people came and gave gifts to it until eventually it became very wealthy and then very corrupt but it was some centuries before it reached that point. (Student) Yes. This was 500 years after it was founded. (Student) Eventually it was very wealthy. Eventually they had lands which they owned and great property, but all that came over the course of time. It's the history of most human organizations. They begin; they're poor;