

of its own making. So the student must distinguish between the humanism of this age where we study and the humanism of other times, particularly the present day. In the Renaissance period the humanistic philosophy called for a release from superstition and the absolutism of the church which, while not providing salvation was still taking all one could give...or get! In this age humanism was a helpful and necessary influence.

Unfortunately the Renaissance also increased the secular desires of the church of Rome. Beauty and form grew in importance while purity of thought and act diminished. While we cannot discuss it fully at this point, the overall effect of the Renaissance was uneven, in terms of humanism and culture it was a success but in terms of spiritual renewal it did not really make it. It was, however, a powerful thrust towards the coming Reformation.

VI.2 The Life Of the Church.

The Life of the Church in the Scholastic Age

We are compelled to organize our material in a somewhat different fashion just because the material does not always fit compactly into the same nitch. But it comes close and in this part of the syllabus we will see the developments of Rome and the Crusades, and formal scholasticism. Eventually we will come to the movements that influenced spiritual life in these times as well. Our treatment of leaders will be as they occur in the order of these movements and we will not have a separate heading for these. This makes the syllabus a bit more complicated and hence the lot of the student more like that of a medieval serf!

VI.2.a Rome!

Developments in the Church of Rome

Growth/significance of the Papacy

The religious life of the period is unintelligible without an understanding of the growing authority of the Bishop of Rome. The power given to his chair did not come about accidentally. The prestige of Rome, the city and the church, was immense; her survival was a wonder and the manipulation of kings and empires increased the meaning of the decrees. To understand some of