

A photograph of Chartres Cathedral at night, illuminated from within, showing its two tall spires and intricate Gothic architecture against a dark blue sky.

Pilgrims, Welcome to Chartres!

Pèlerins, soyez les bienvenues à Chartres!

A brief presentation on pilgrimage as preparation
for circumambulation of the Cathedral

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Pilgrim,
you have arrived
at a place
your heart has long desired to be.

A place where
you can rest,
trusting that which seeks creation
will be brought forth.



God creating Adam, North Porch.



Many have come before you to the holy hill that rises from the plains.

Julius Caesar, in *The Gallic Wars: Book VI*,
wrote that the Druids had an annual meeting in the land of the Carnutes (modern day Chartres) to settle disputes.

The cathedral
has many images
of pilgrims.



Pilgrims with their walking sticks
North Choir

Images of those who came to pray to God and the saints for help can be found throughout the cathedral.





Pilgrims came,
trusting the
saints to assist them
as they sought God's help.

Here at Chartres
pilgrims have especially
sought Mary's help
as they prayed near
her "veil."

She was believed
to have worn
this cloth/garment
during the
Annunciation of
Jesus' birth
and/or
his actual birth.



The skull of Jesus' grandmother,
Anne, the mother of Mary,
attracted many pilgrims
and acts of devotion.

Lancet Window Below the North Rose
and North Porch Trumeau statues



A photograph showing the interior of a stone structure, possibly a crypt or a small chapel. In the center, there is a large, round, recessed area with a rough, reddish-brown textured surface. A single, lit candle hangs from a dark, thin chain by its side. The ceiling is made of large, light-colored stone blocks.

Pilgrims have sought the
help of other saints too—
their remains were
considered powerful—
often miracles happened
in their presence.



Well where the bones of Modeste and Pontentien, the first Christian martyrs of Chartres, were believed to have been thrown.



Chartres—was one of the major cathedrals
that pilgrims would visit on the way to Compostela in Spain.





Saint James
(Jacobus)
12th century mural
Crypte of Chartres



Pilgrims to Compostella:
a woman with walking stick & bread pouch,
a man wearing a scallop shell on his hat

North Choir Window



Pilgrims often circle sacred sites before entering.



East

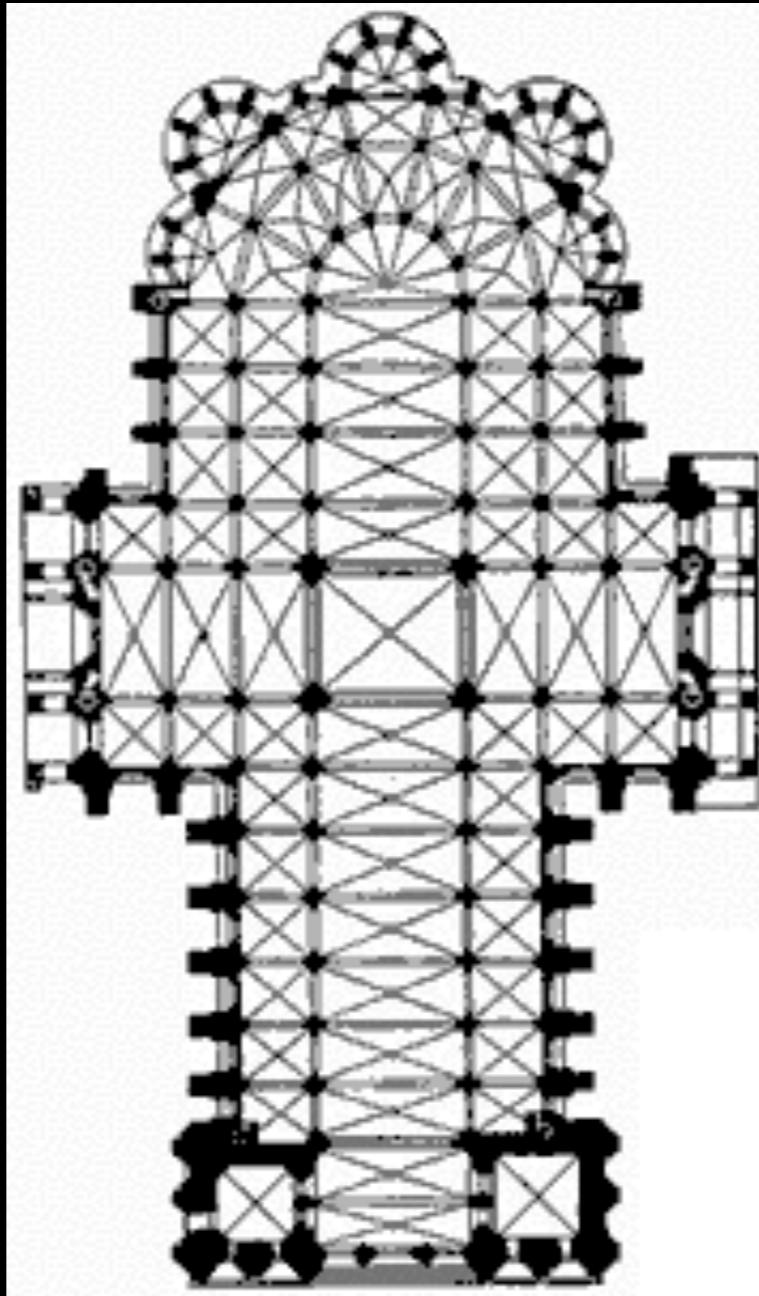
The Rising Sun as a symbol of the Risen Son

North

Shadow
Cold

Time before the
coming of
Jesus Christ

Symbols of the
Old Testament



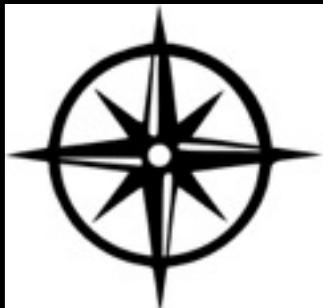
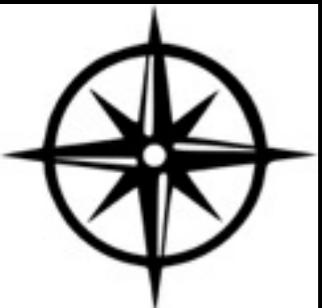
The South

Sun
Warmth

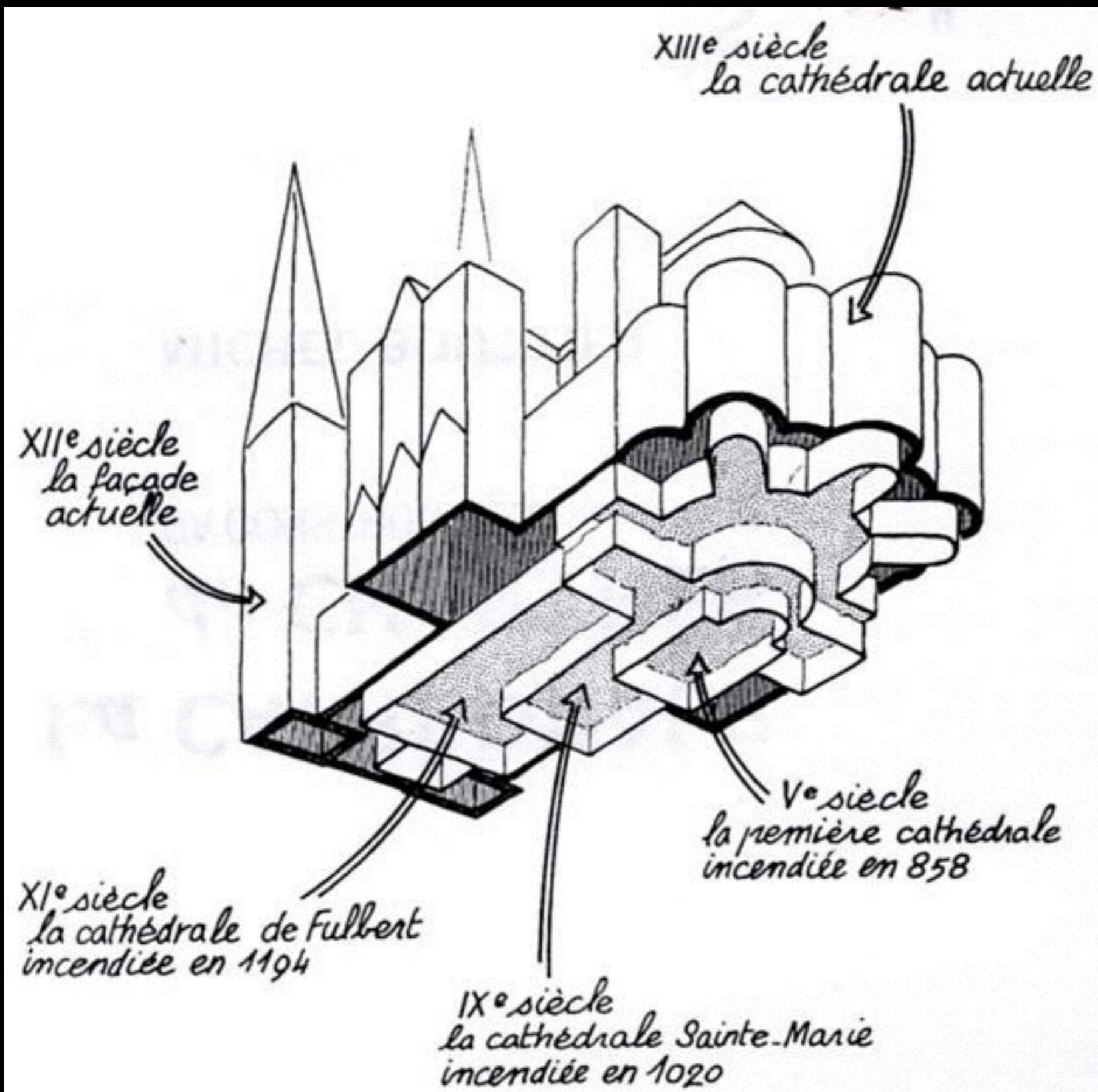
Time after the
coming of
Jesus Christ

Symbolism of the
Church

West
Setting Sun
The End of Time



We will circle not only the current cathedral, but each of the churches that has existed on this site.





Pilgrim,
no matter
what burdens
you carry...
mental,
emotional,
physical,
spiritual...



At Chartres,
The Holy One
is depicted as being with you
on the pilgrimage
journey.



12th century stained glass window in the West



Let us make our way
to the cathedral.

Be Safe and Well.

Peace,
Love,
(Wisdom),
and
Courage!

Egyptian blessing
for those leaving on pilgrimage