

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





Pilgrims have sought the help of others 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.**



Map 1. Romanesque Monuments in France (1000–1150's); the Pilgrimage Routes to Santiago de Compostela





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

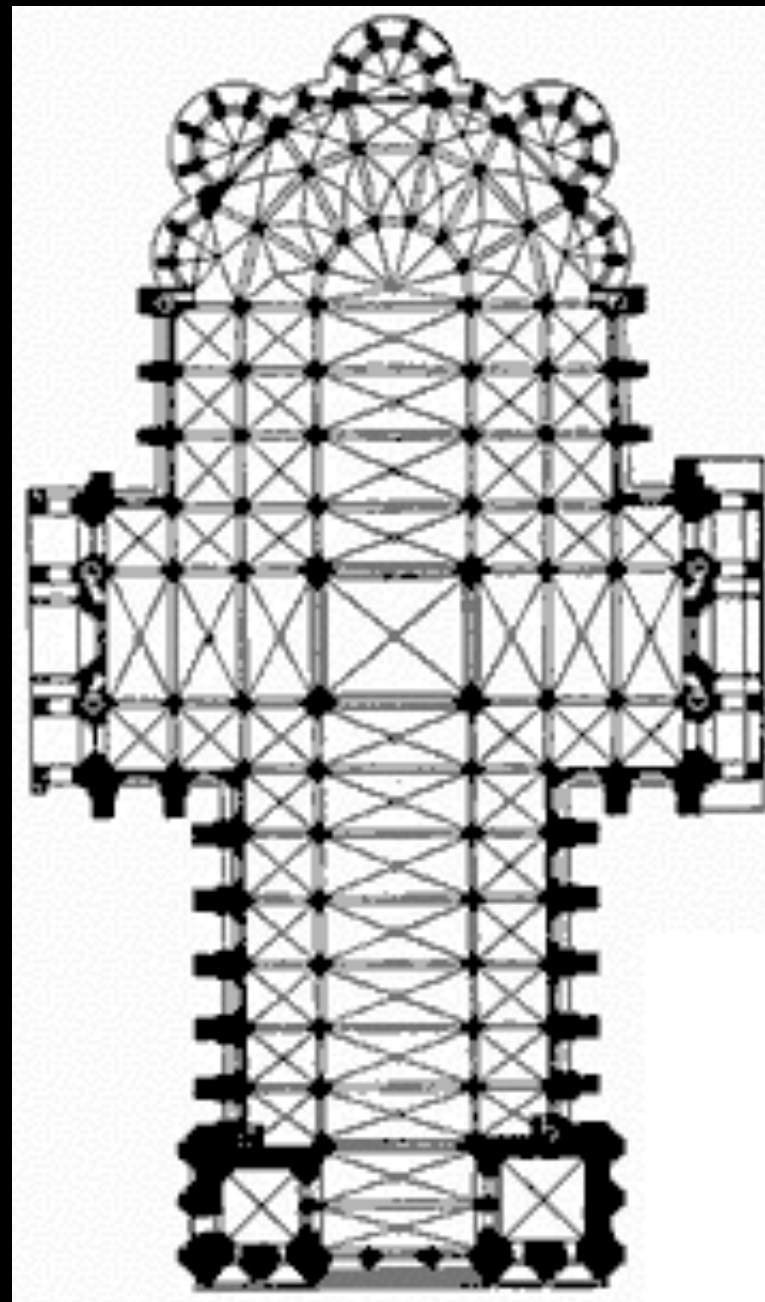
The Rising Sun as a symbol of the Risen Son

North

Shadow  
Cold

Time before the  
coming of  
Jesus Christ

Symbols of the  
Old Testament

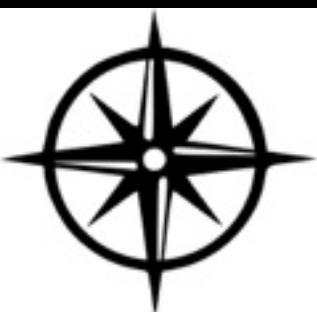


The South

Sun  
Warmth

Time after the  
coming of  
Jesus Christ

Symbolism of the  
Church



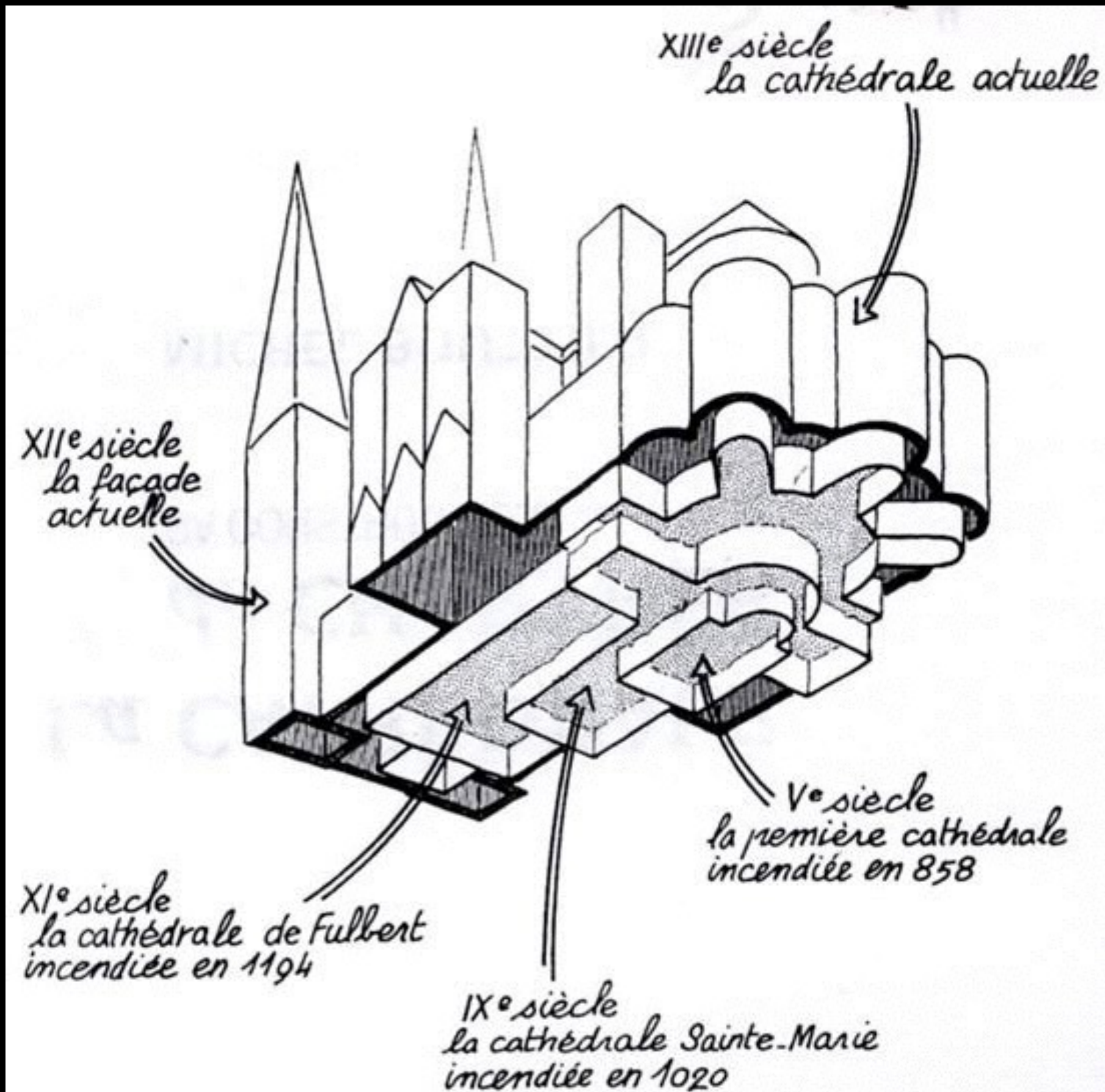
West

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 pilgrim  
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