

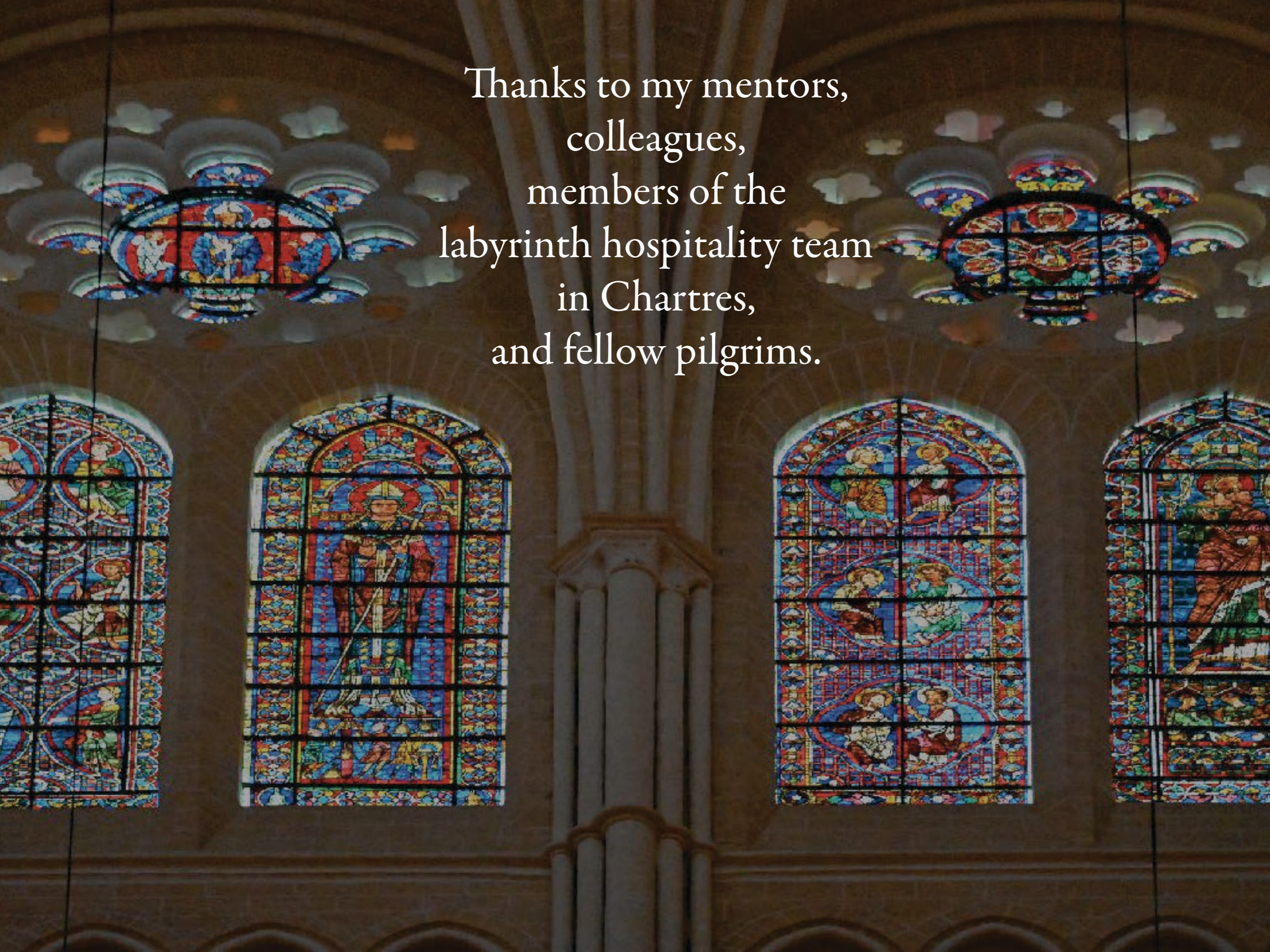
The image shows the interior of Chartres Cathedral, featuring a large labyrinth on the floor and several tall, narrow stained glass windows. People are seen walking around the labyrinth. The text is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

Stained Glass Reflections:
The Chartres Cathedral labyrinth
and the stained-glass surrounding it

Created and Presented by The Rev. Jill K H Geoffrion, Ph.D.
www.jillgeoffrion.com



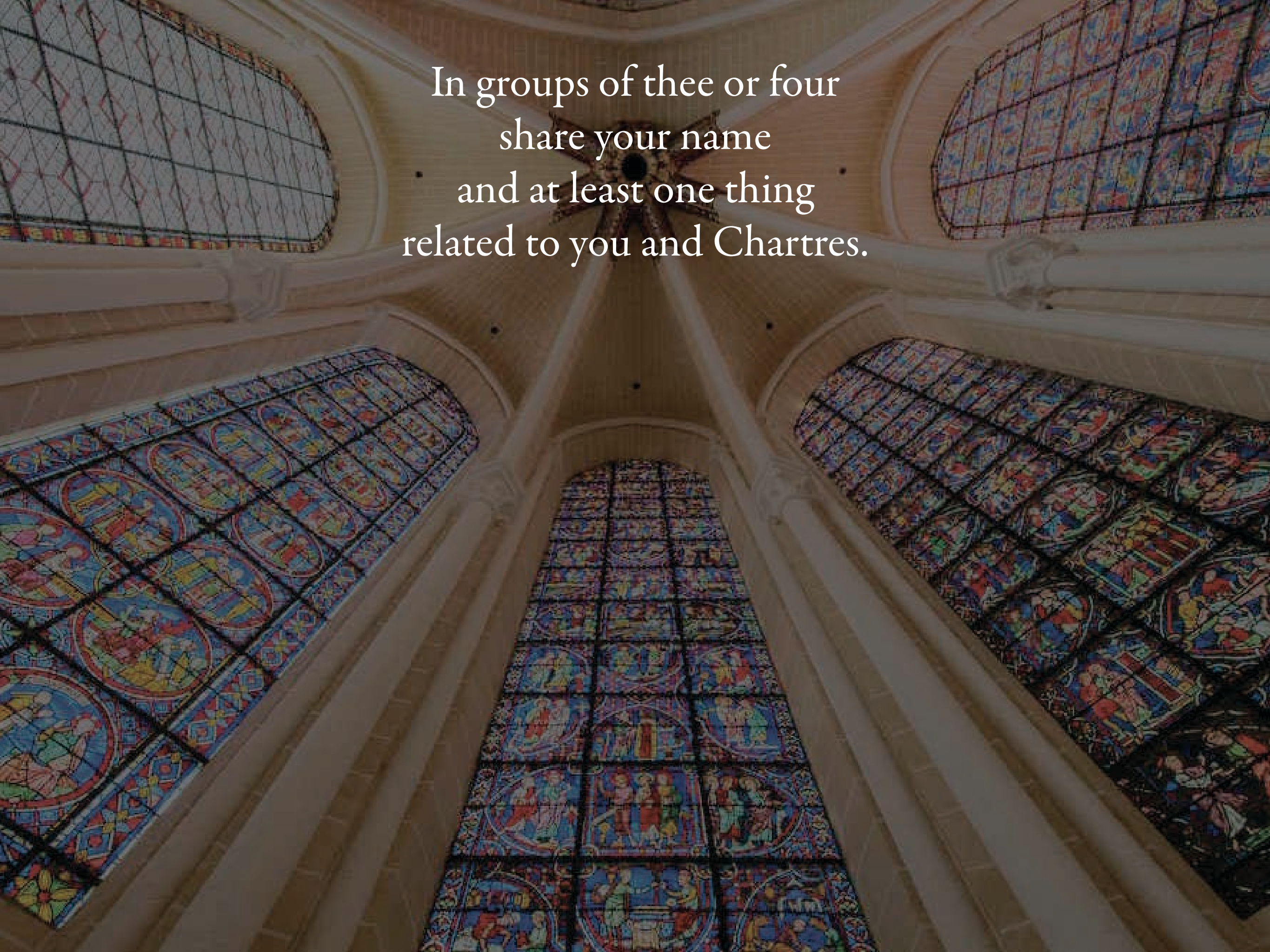
Thanks to my mentors,
colleagues,
members of the
labyrinth hospitality team
in Chartres,
and fellow pilgrims.





This workshop has been designed to
inform,
inspire,
bathe you in the beauty of the cathedral and labyrinth,
offer some surprises,
and
provide time for contemplation.

It involves both visual presentations
and your participation!

The image shows the interior of a Gothic cathedral, looking up at the ceiling. The ceiling is a high, vaulted dome with a central starburst or floral motif. The walls are lined with large, colorful stained glass windows. The windows are divided into a grid of smaller panels, each containing a different scene or figure. The colors are vibrant, including blues, reds, yellows, and greens. The architecture is made of light-colored stone or plaster, with pointed arches and ribbed vaulting. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.

In groups of three or four
share your name
and at least one thing
related to you and Chartres.





Pilgrimage Ritual

As we bow our heads,
we remember that the first step
on the path is humility.

The second step, letting go,
is symbolized by
holding two fists out
and opening them downward.

The third step, receiving,
is honored by turning the palms up
in a gesture of openness.

For the fourth step, both hands
are placed over the heart.

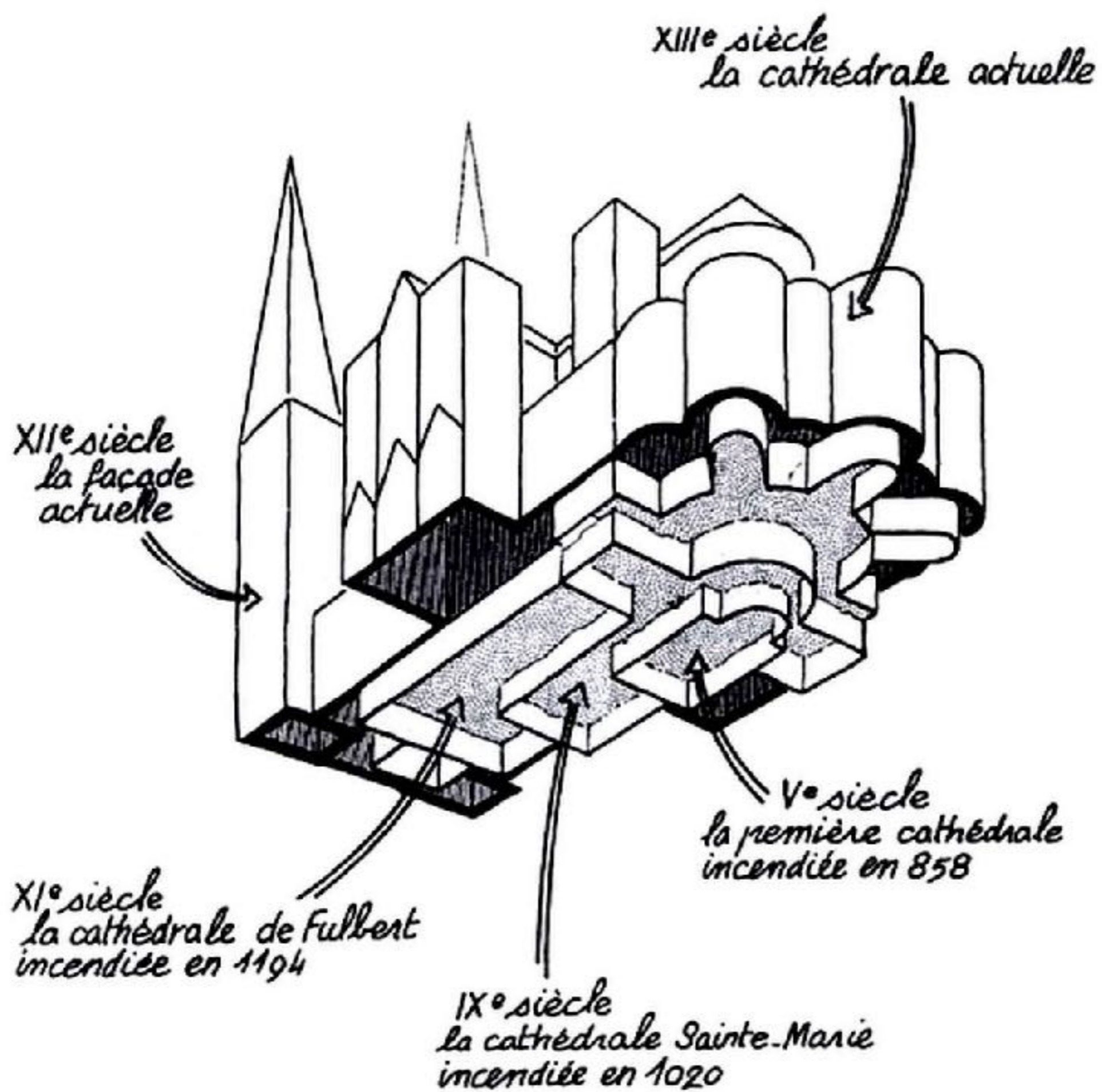
Together, we ask,
May the path lead us Home.

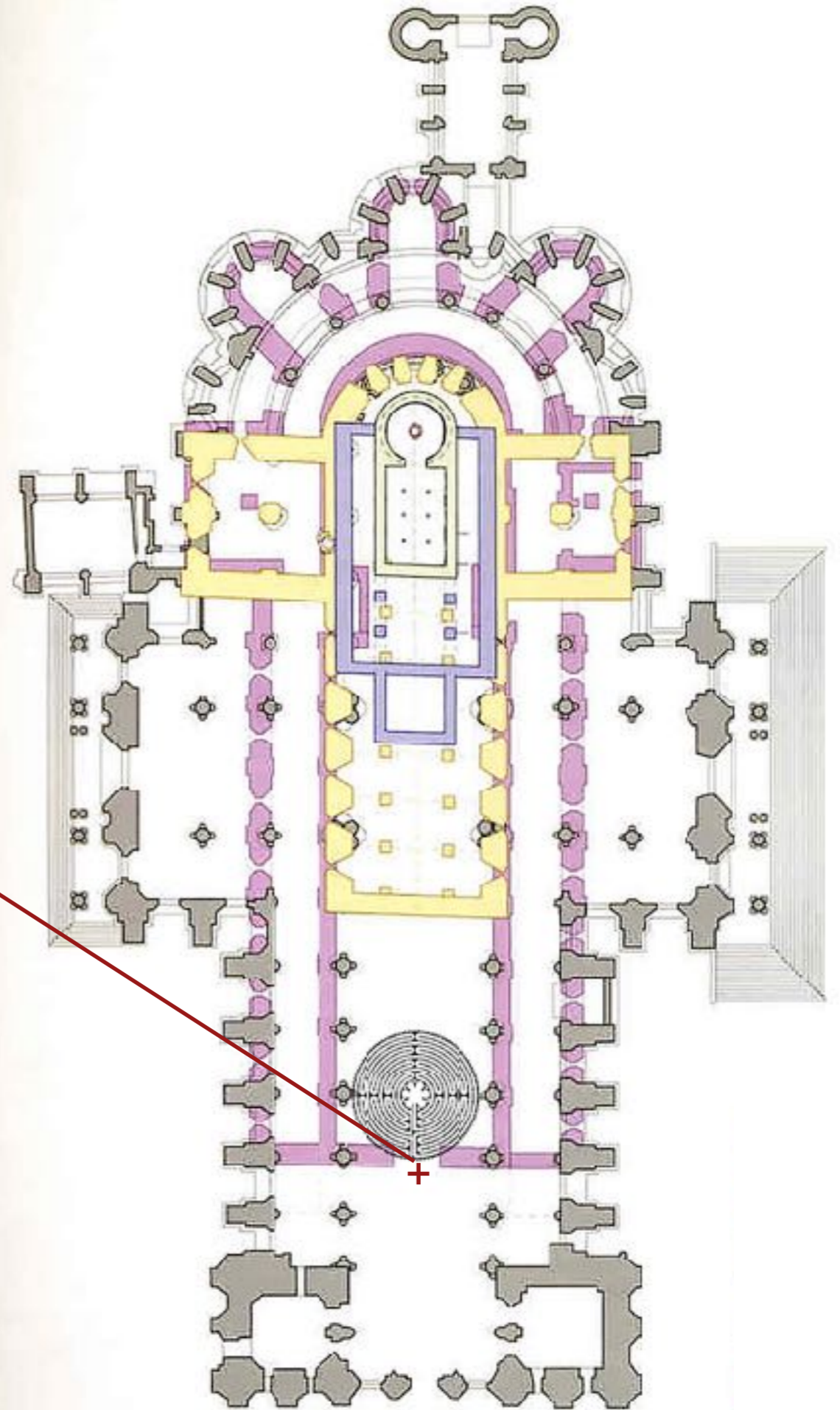
*Created by: Cielle Tewksbury
shared at a TLS Gathering in 1998,
adapted by Jill*







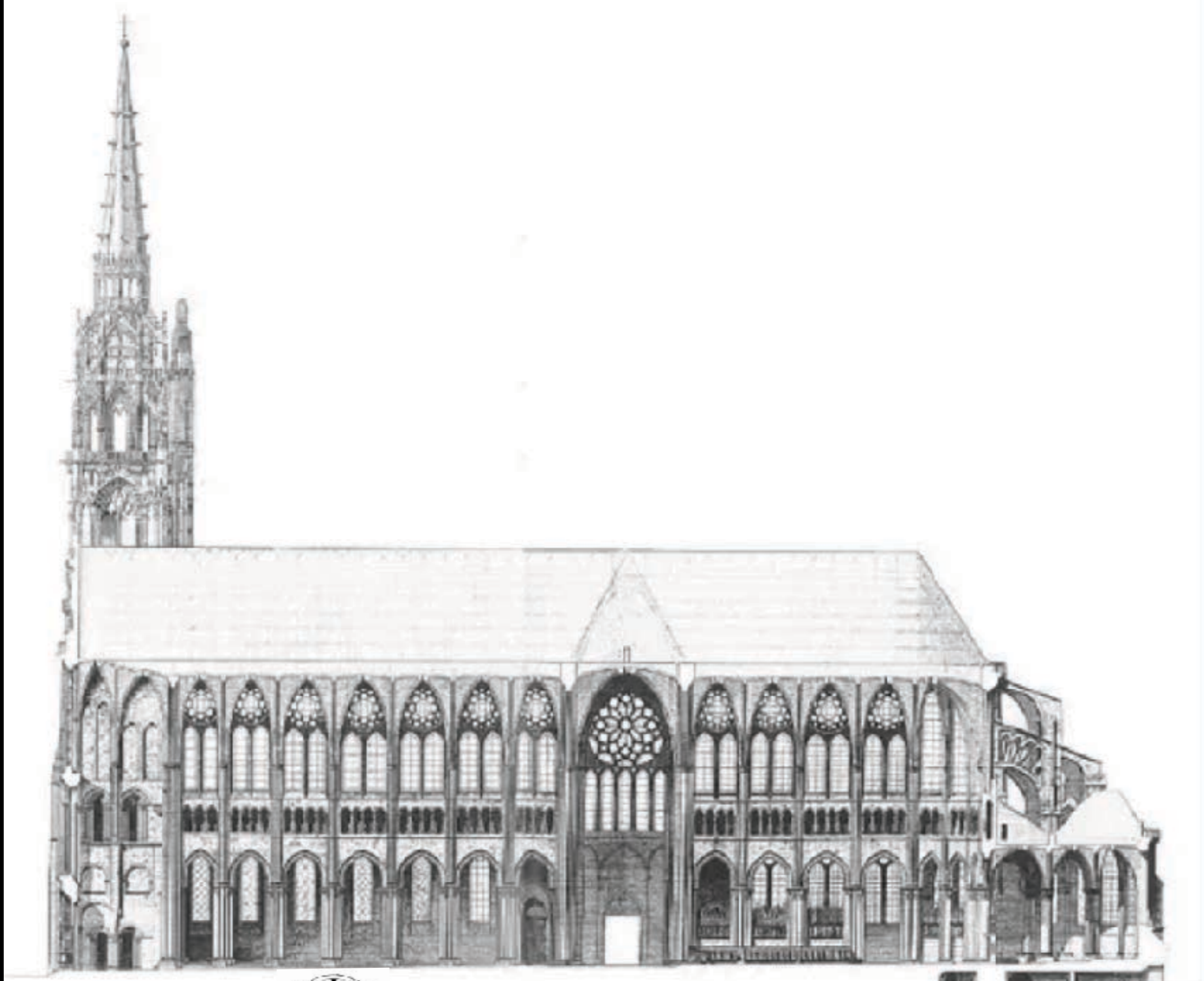




*Diagram from Gordon Strachan,
Chartres: Sacred Geometry, Sacred Space. 2003
altered by Jill to correct labyrinth size & placement.*





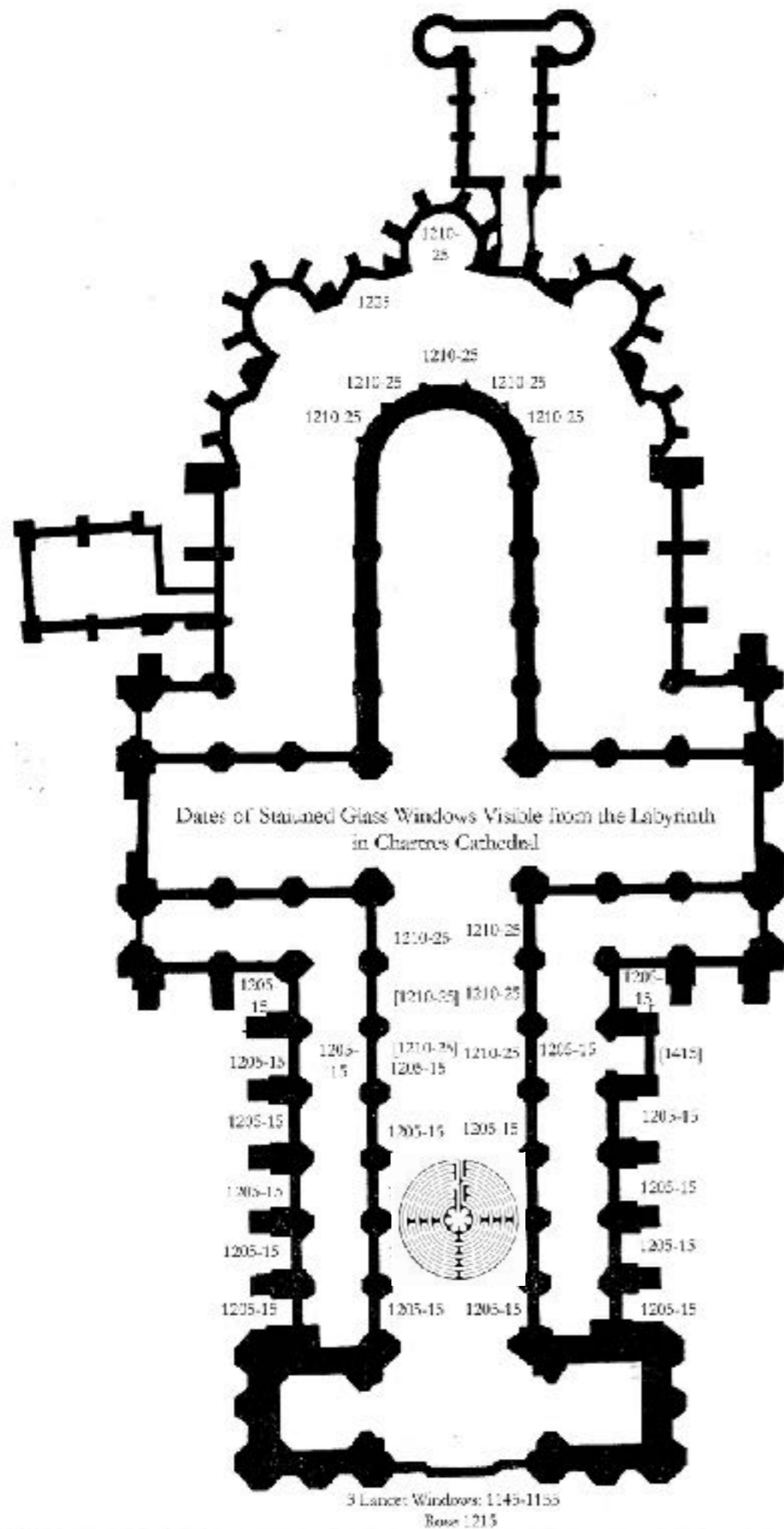


Drawing by Lassus

The Stained Glass of Chartres Cathedral



The Chartres Cathedral retains 152 of its original 186 original windows. It covers more than 8,530.18 feet of space (2,600 meters)!



Relevant Dates

3 Lancet (lower) windows
to the west of the labyrinth
1145-1155

Labyrinth 1200-1220

Windows (both lower and upper)
around the labyrinth:
1205-1210

West rose window
1215









Detail of West Rose: the dead rising from grave at the of time when they would be judged













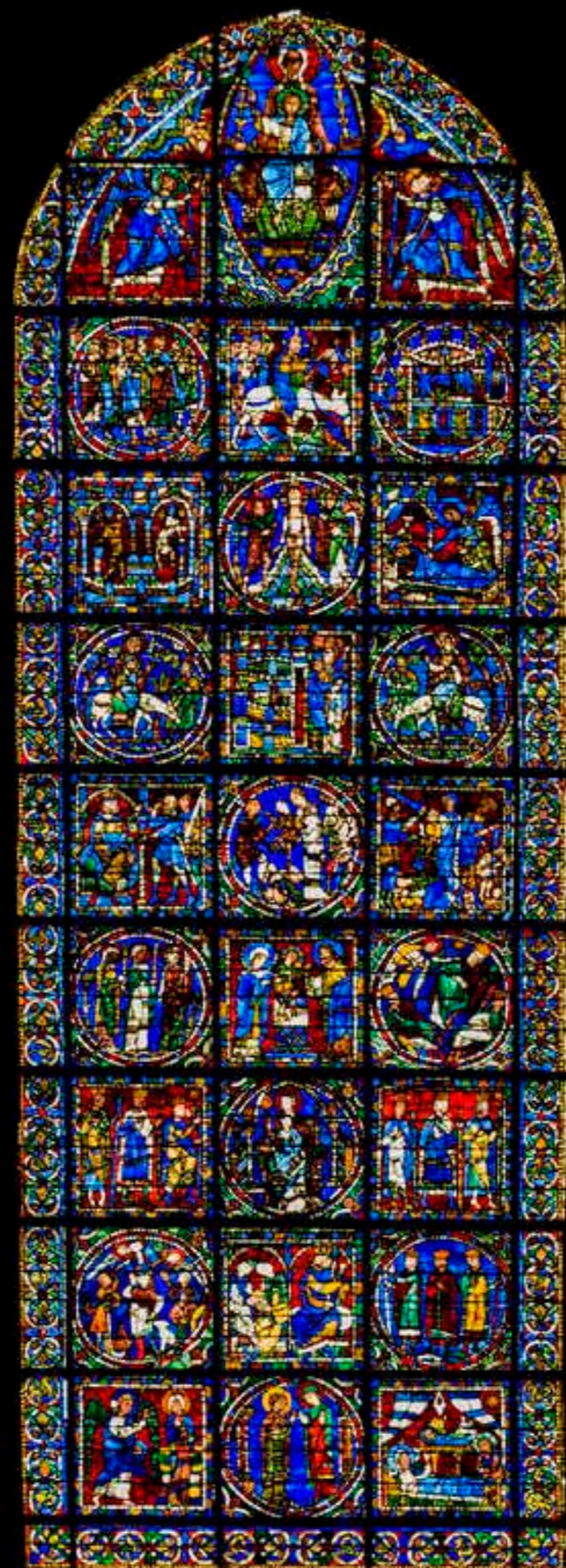
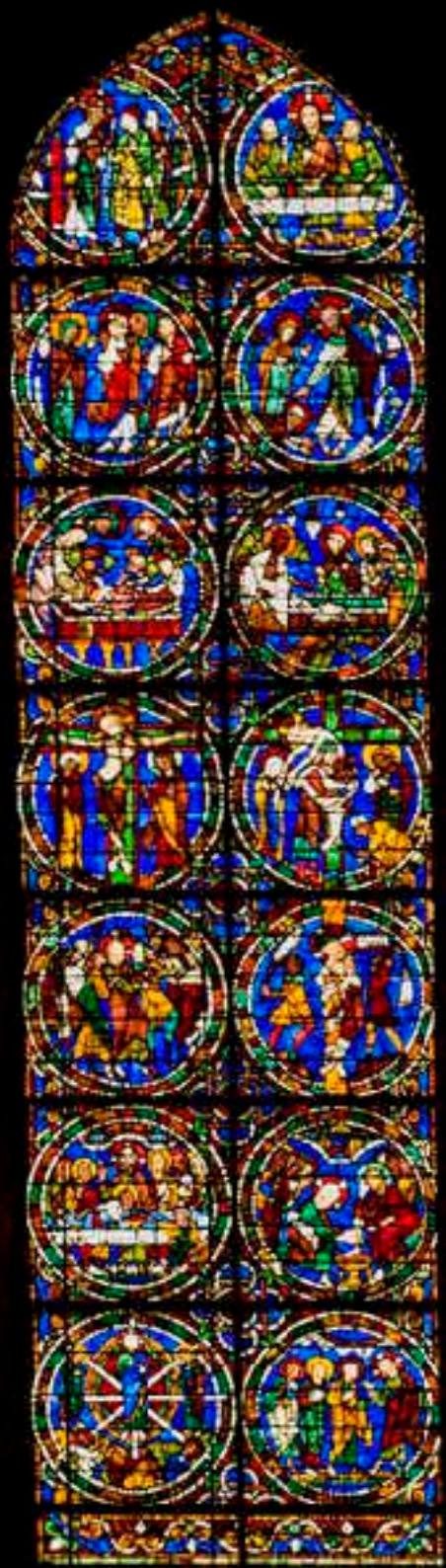




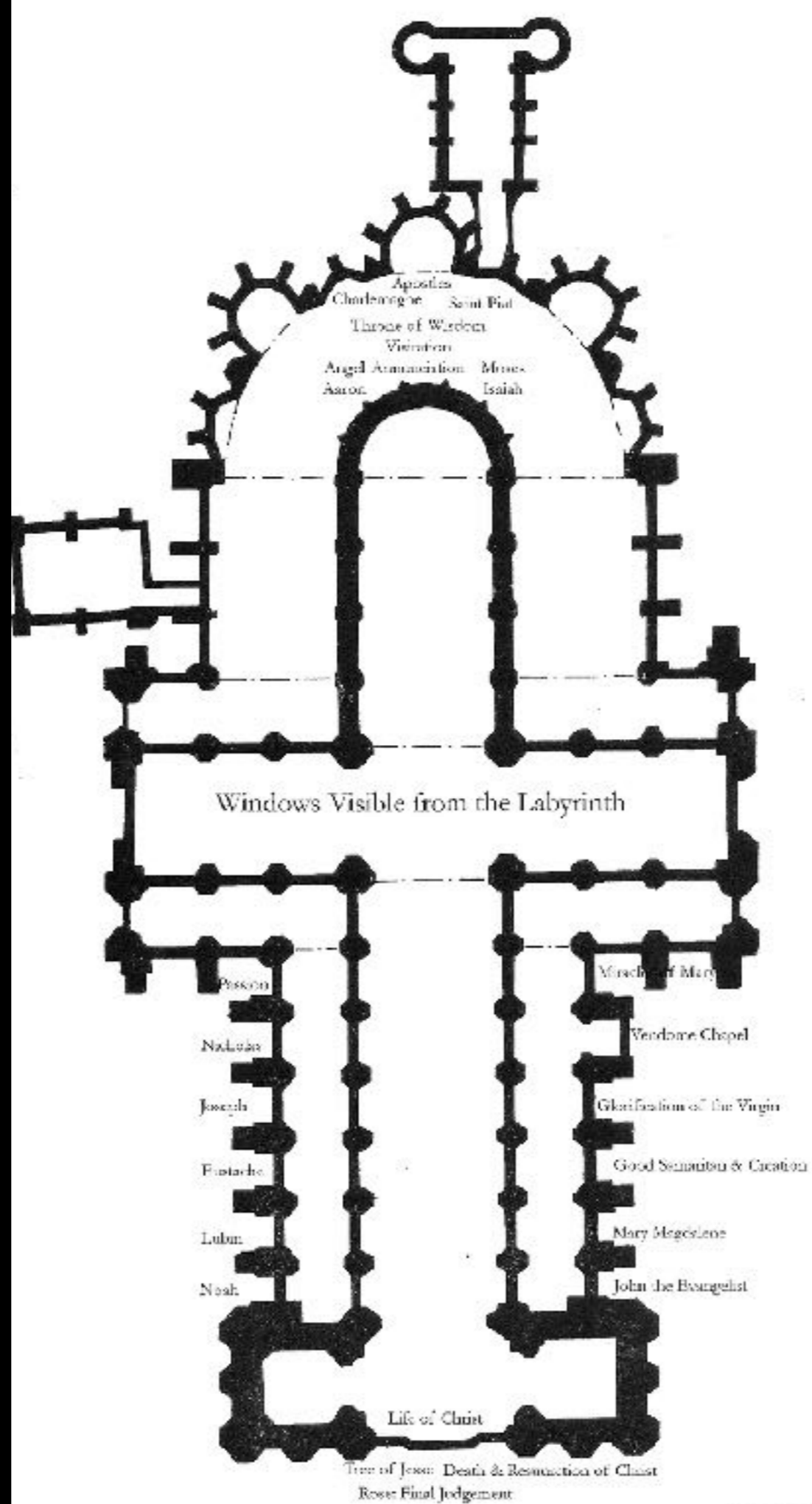


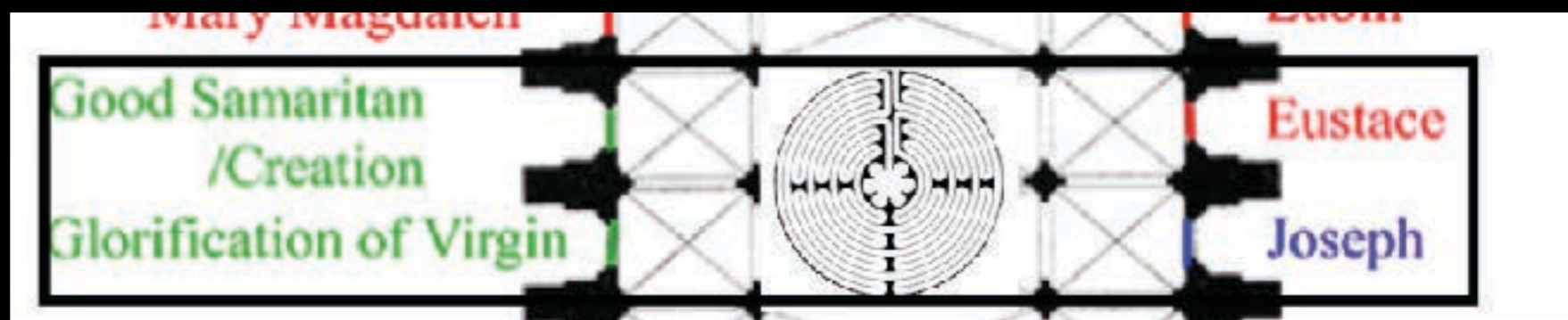


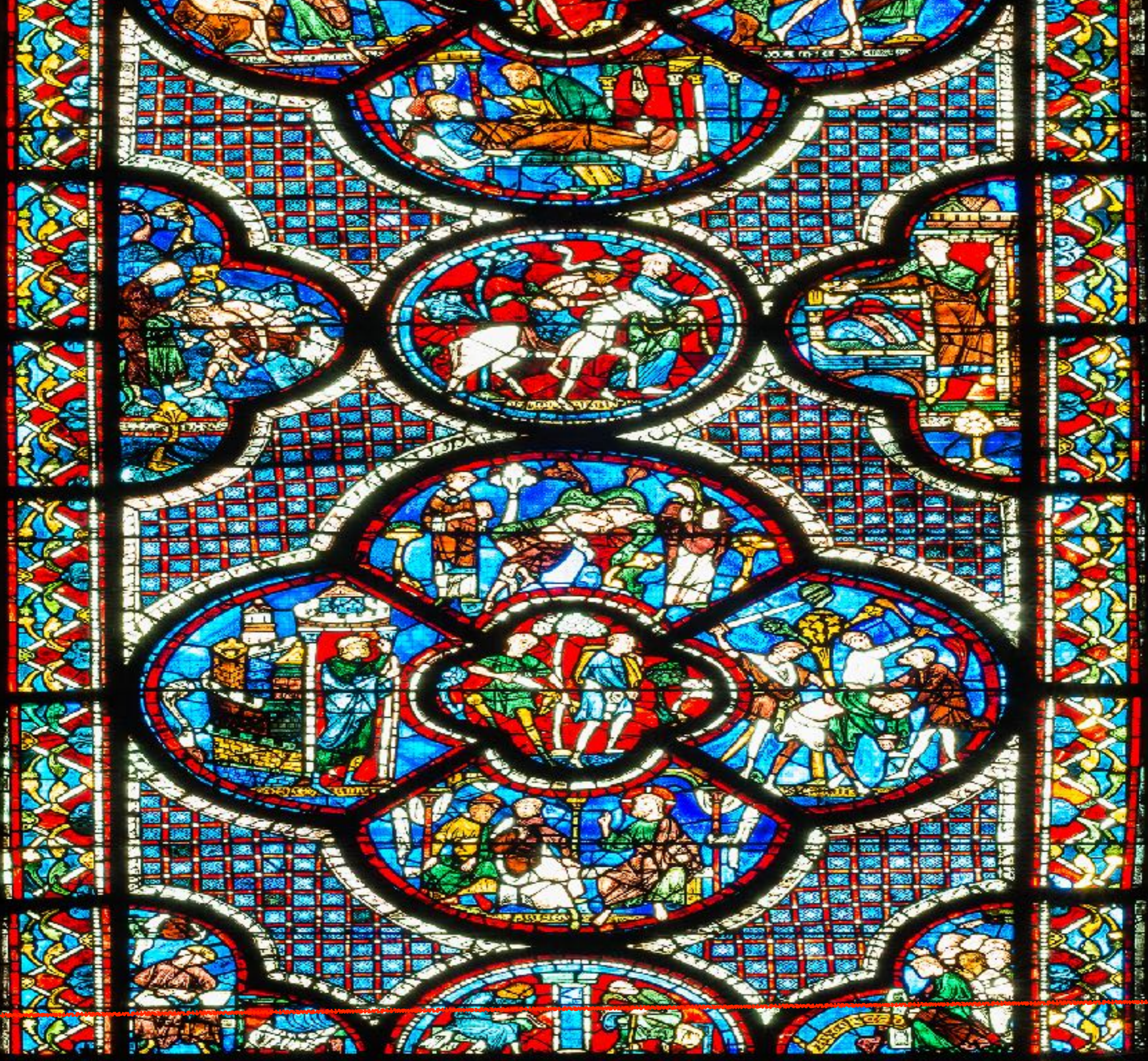




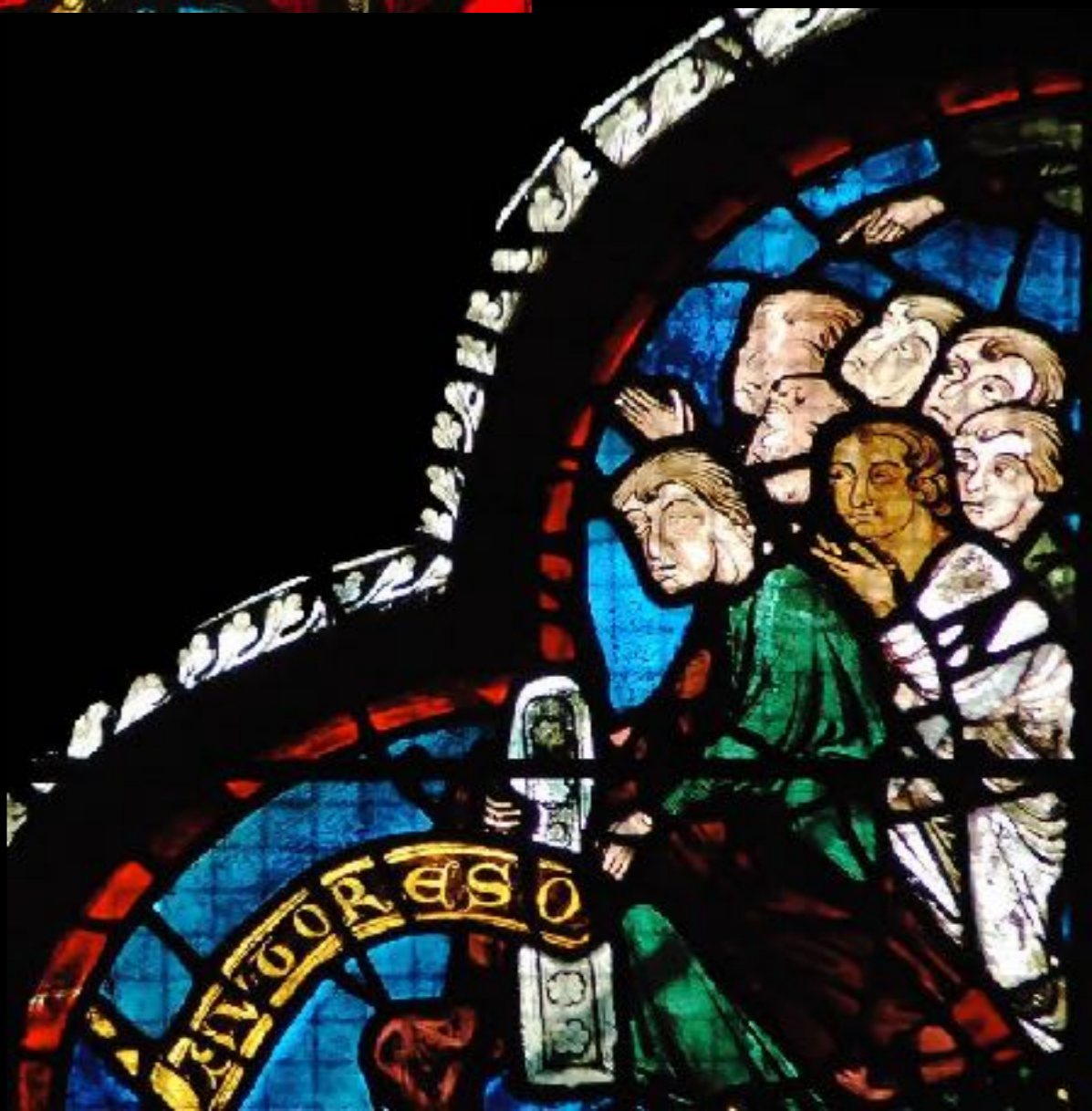


















ARISE

S





DEUS REX













SAMARITANVS



S. MARY VIRGIN

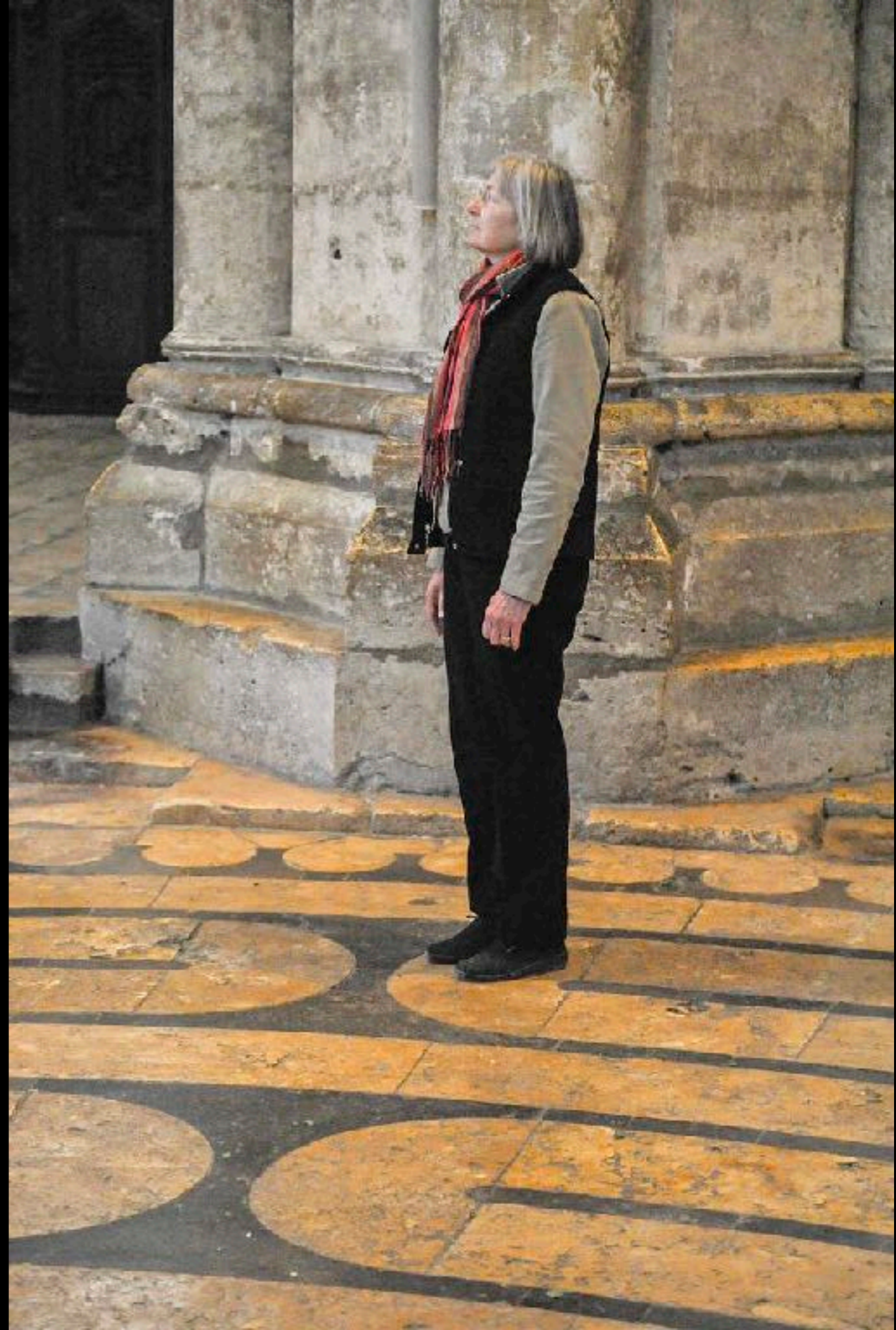


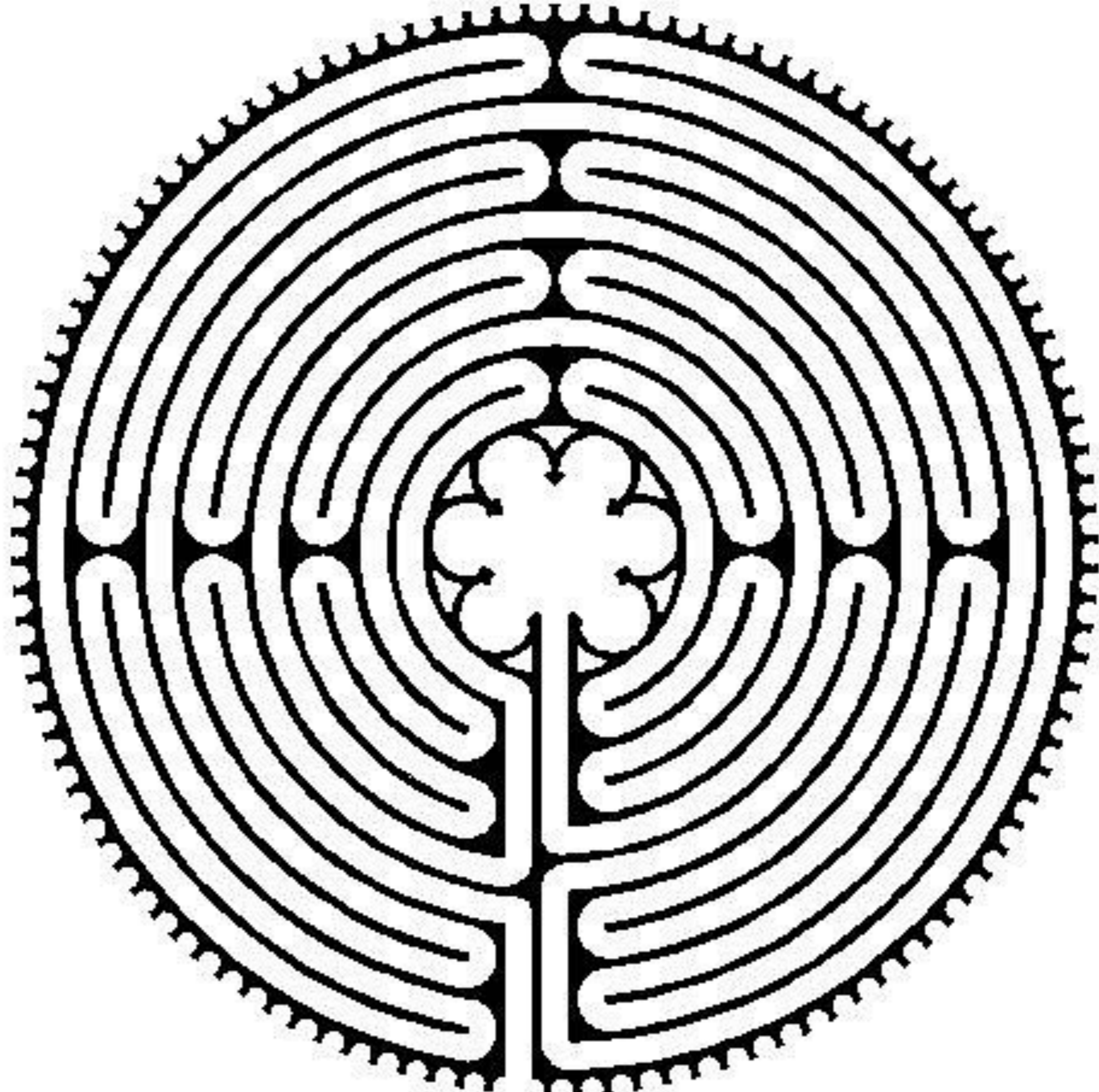




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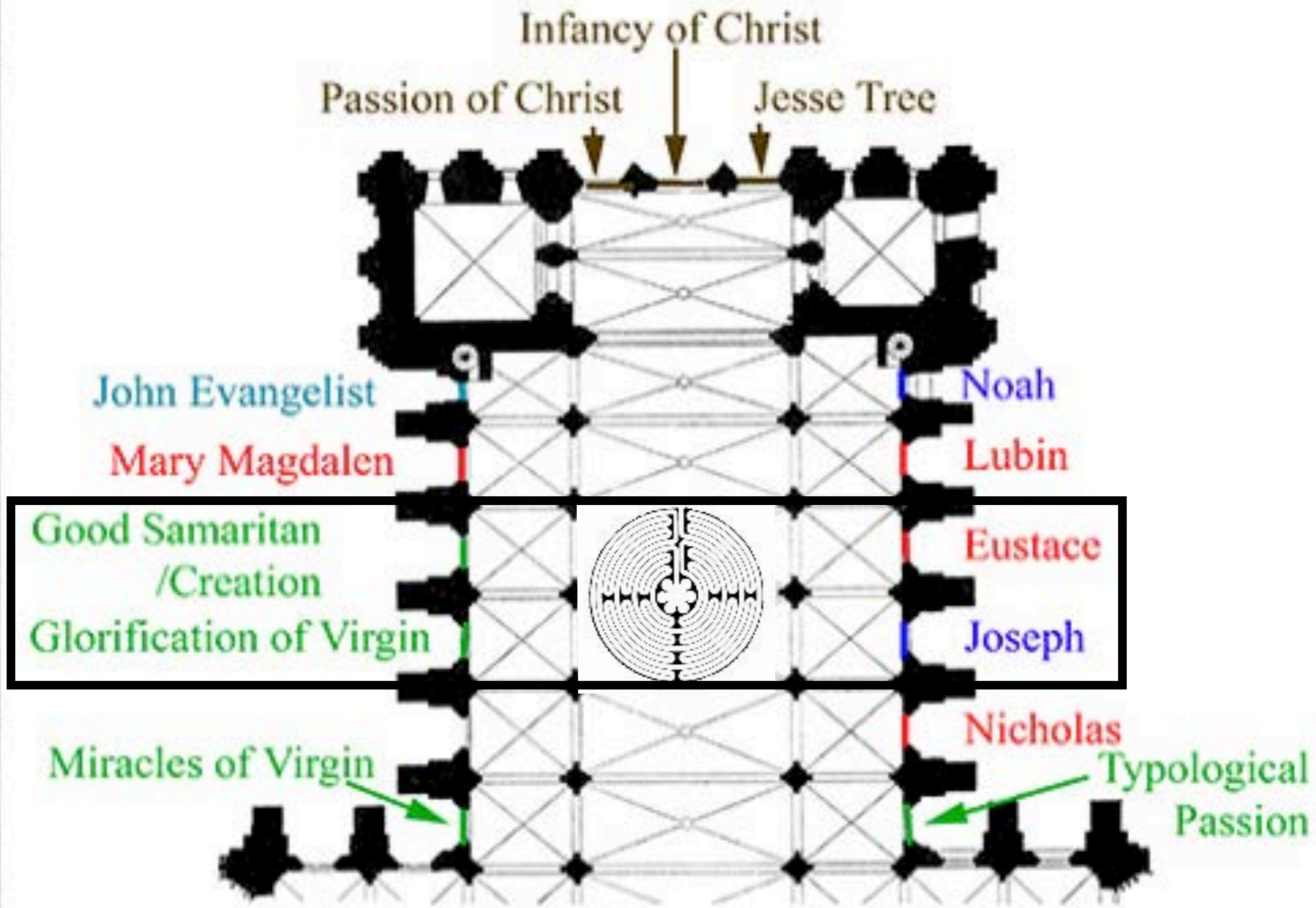
What connections
do you perceive
between
the Good Samaritan
story
and your experience
of walking
the labyrinth?





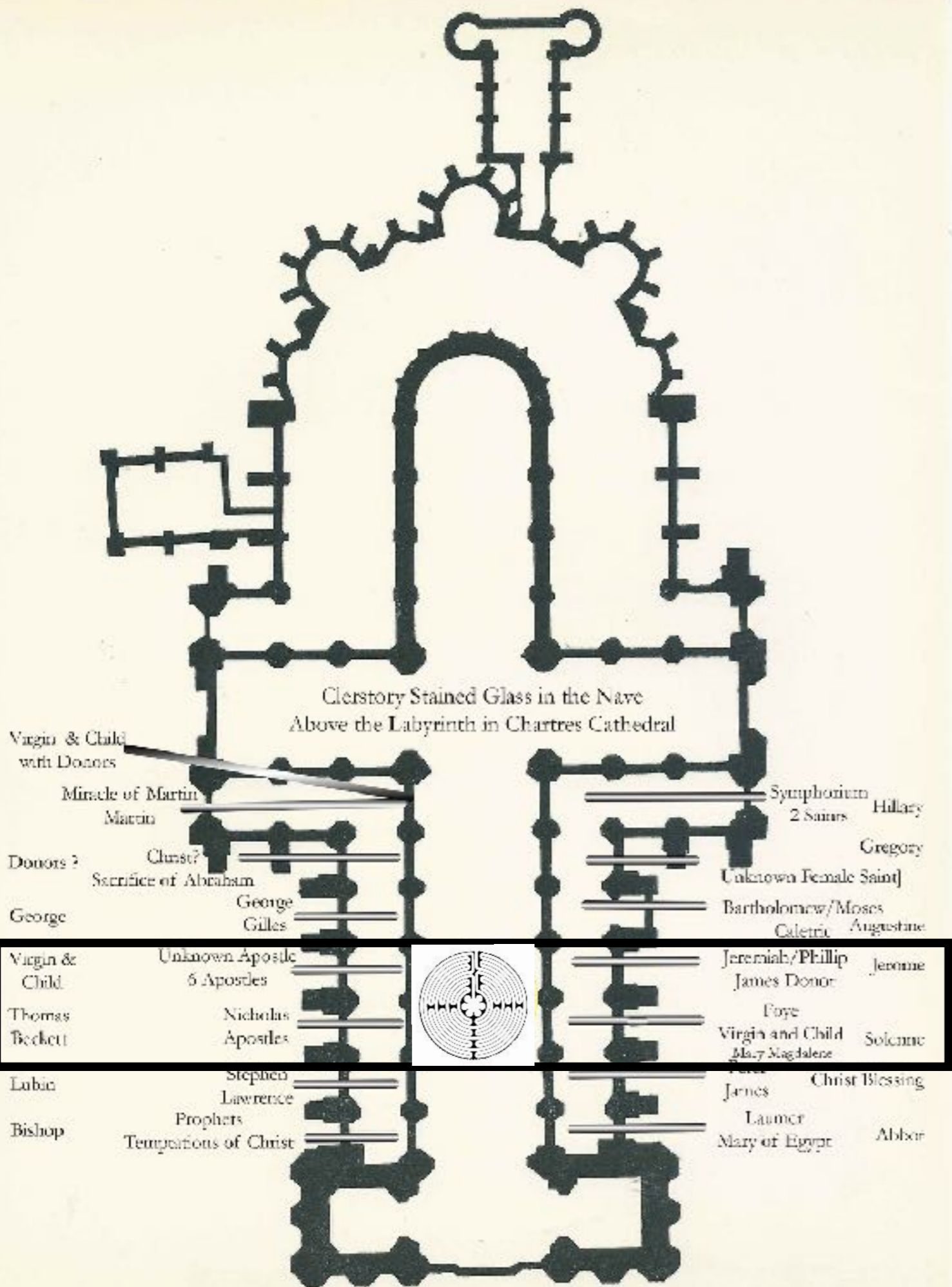


Themes from the windows that relate to labyrinth experience



- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Saints
- Other
- Apostles

Chartres Clerestory Window Above the Labyrinth

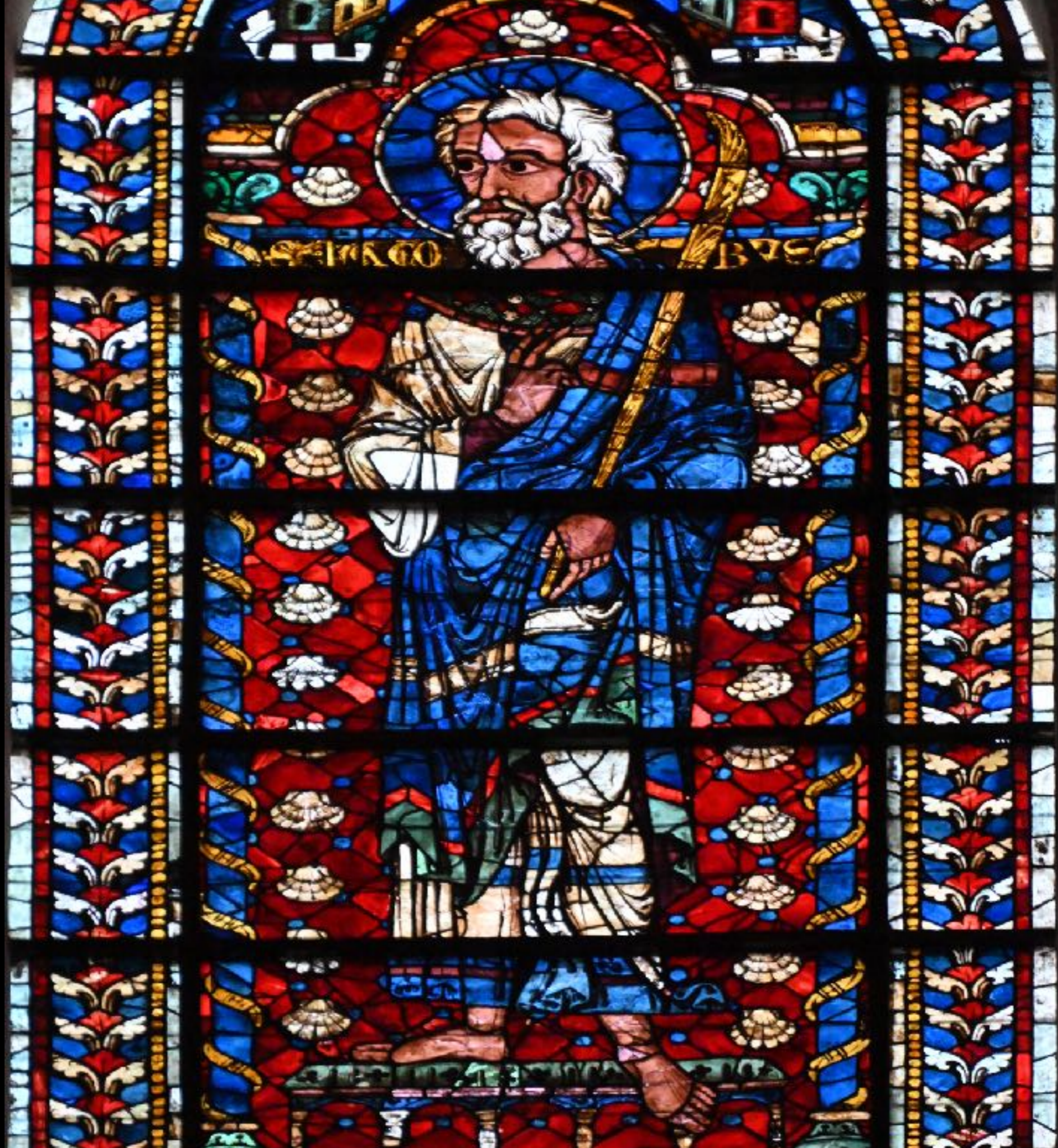


Pilgrimage





Pilgrims to Emmaus
12th century, Chartres

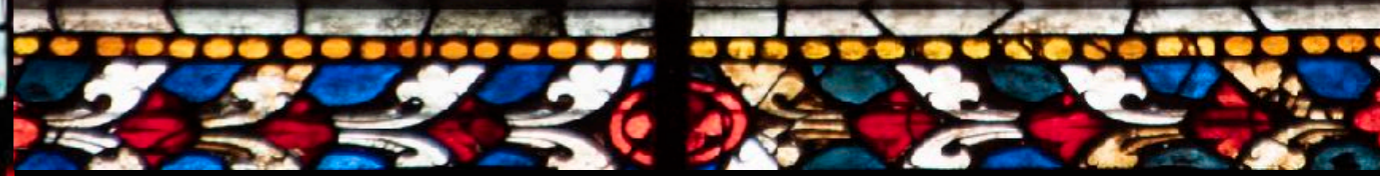


The French Camino (Le Chemin de Compostelle) at Chartres





G'AVERTIOVS



What does it mean to you that the labyrinth is a place of pilgrimage?





Suffering and Reversals:
twisting and turning on the labyrinthine journey
of life



Turns

28

180

degrees

turns



6

90

degrees

turns



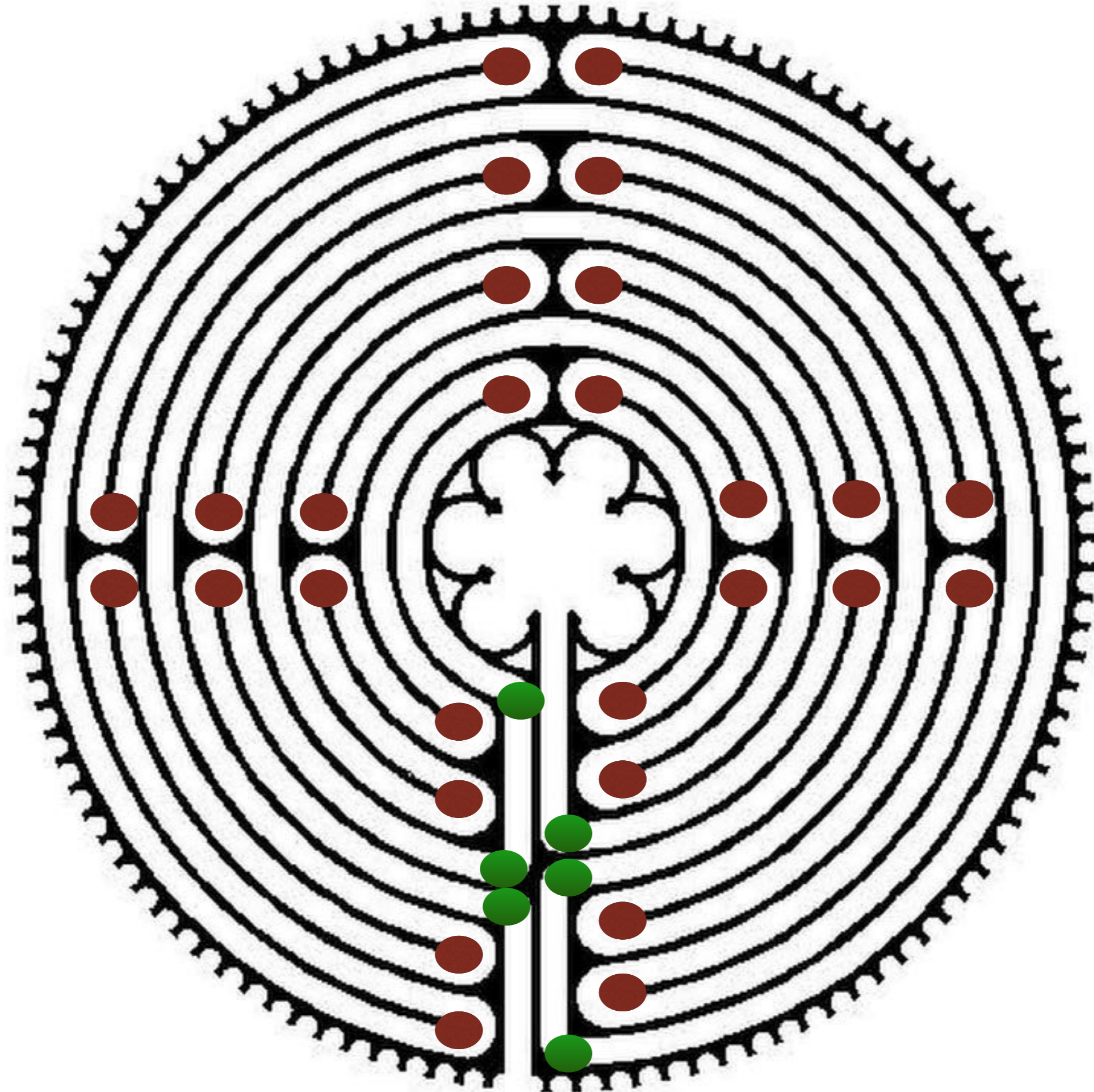
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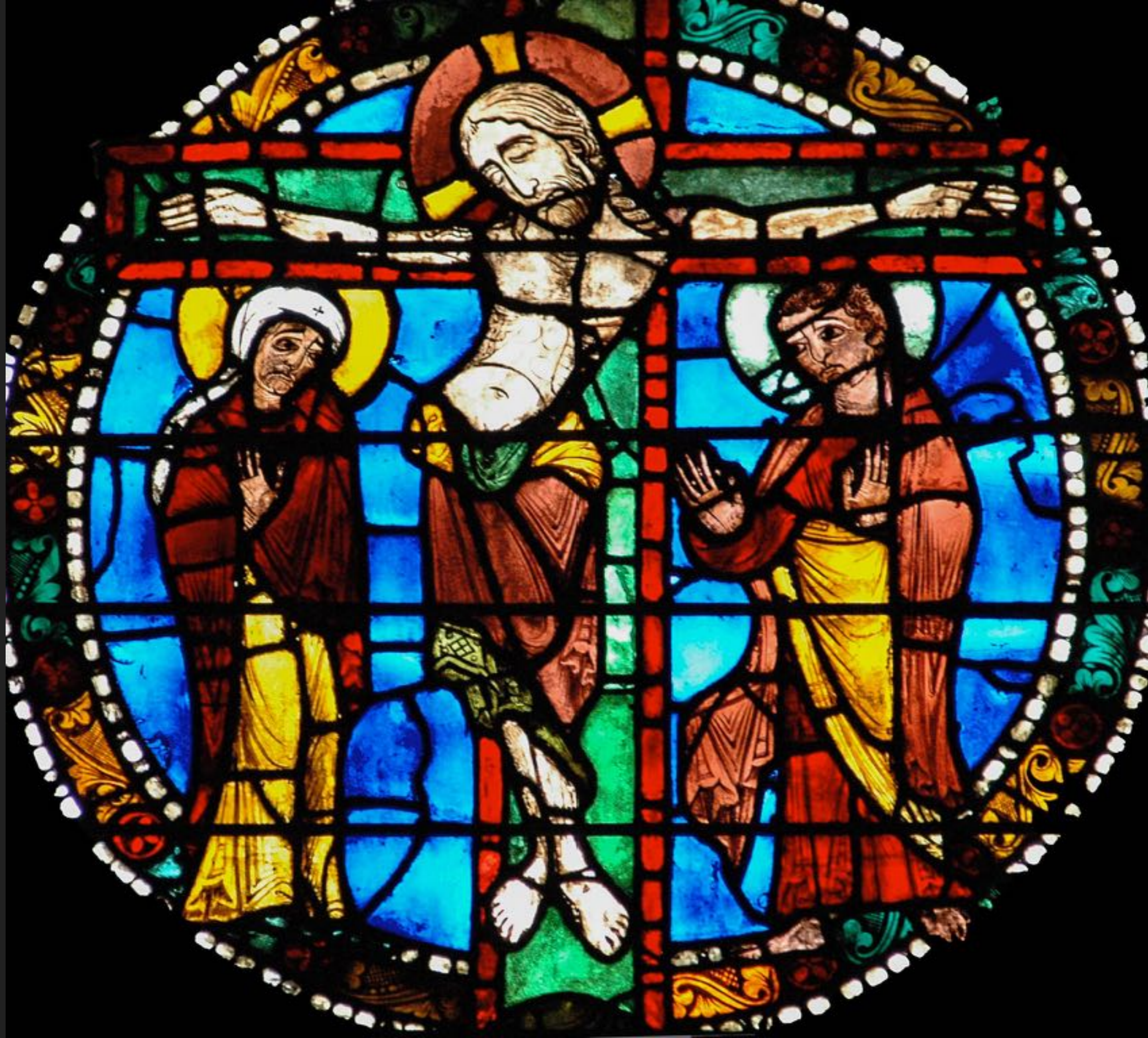
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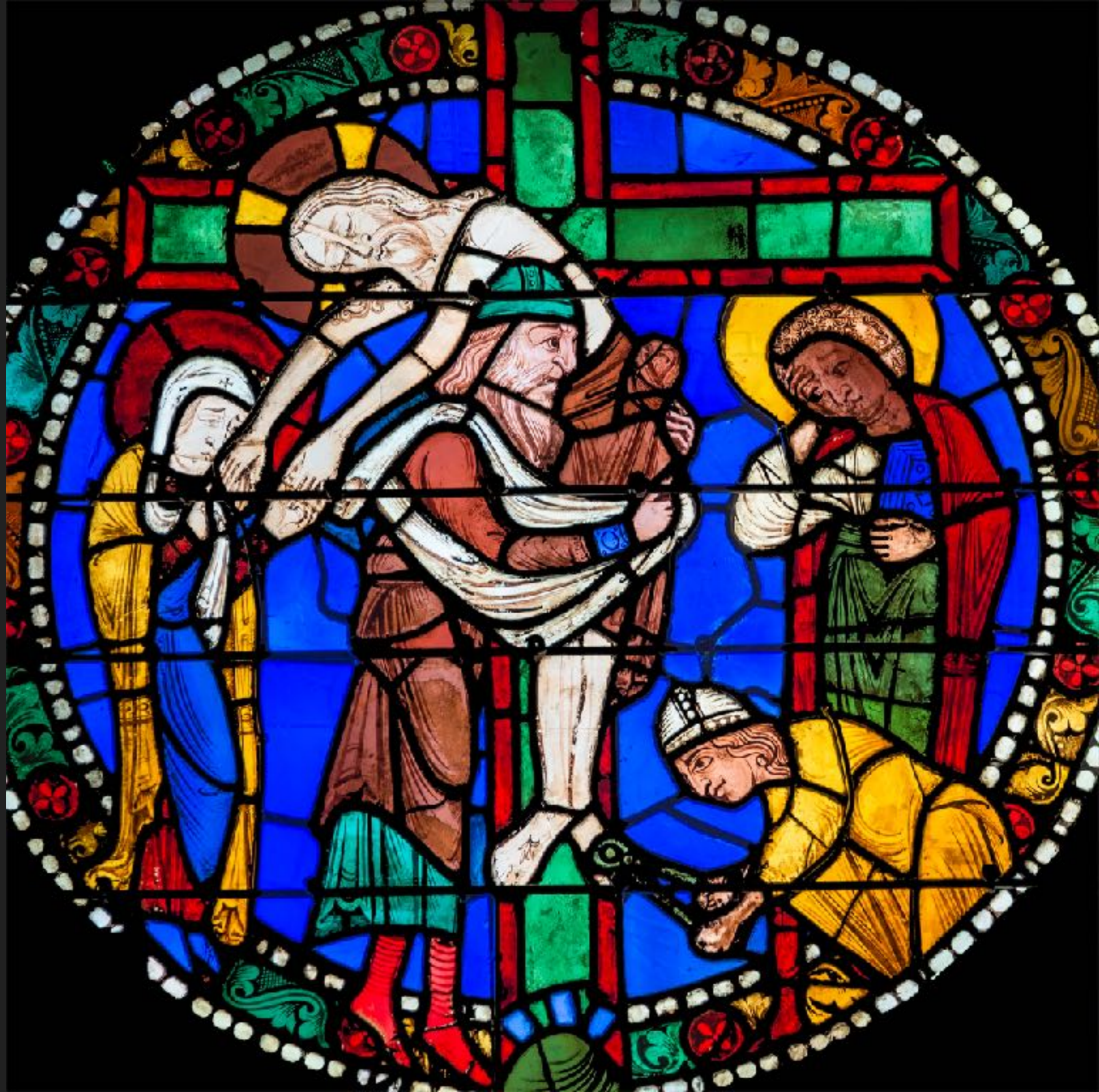
turns

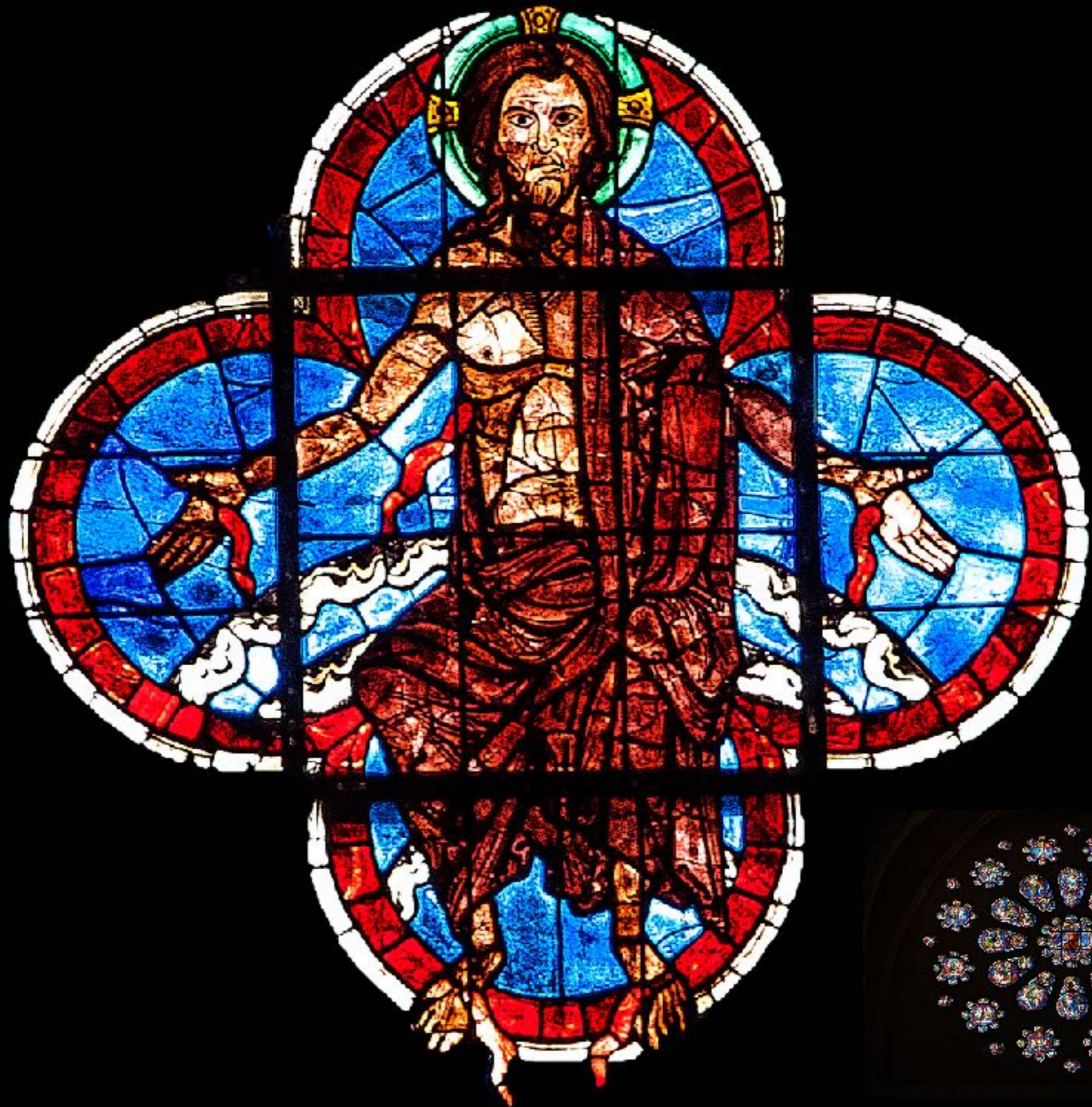














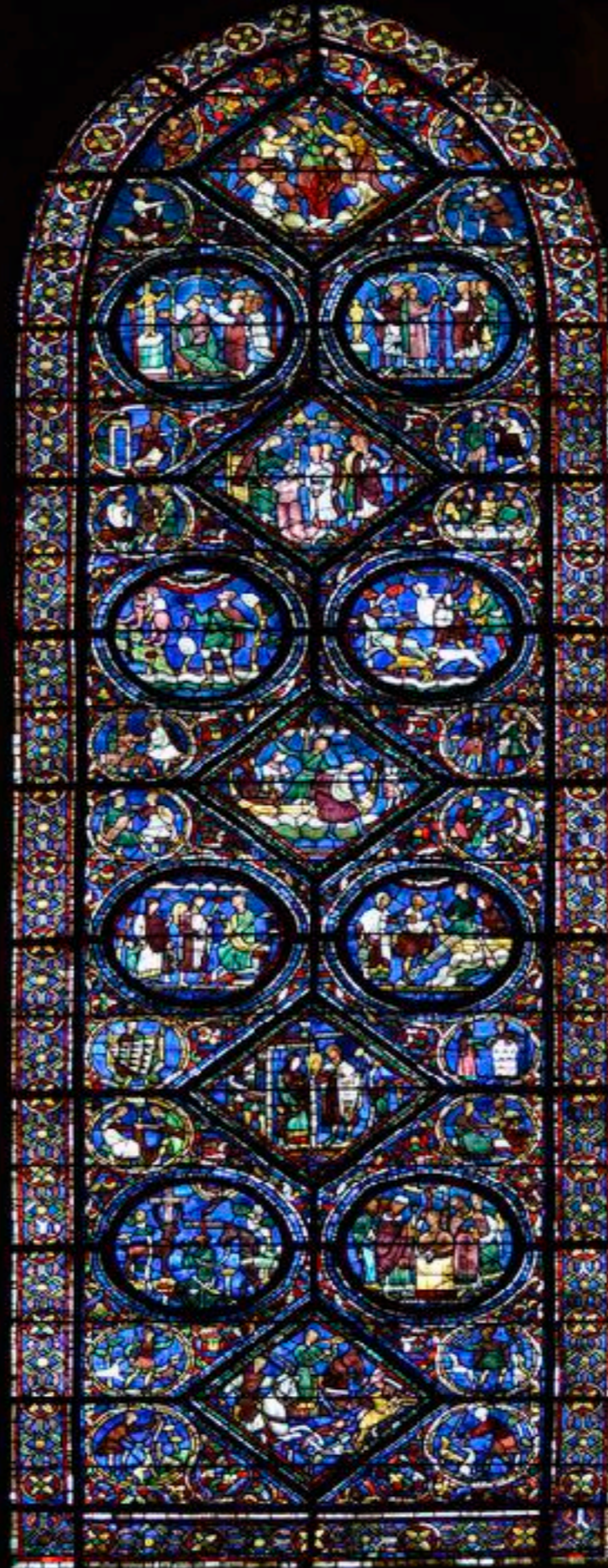


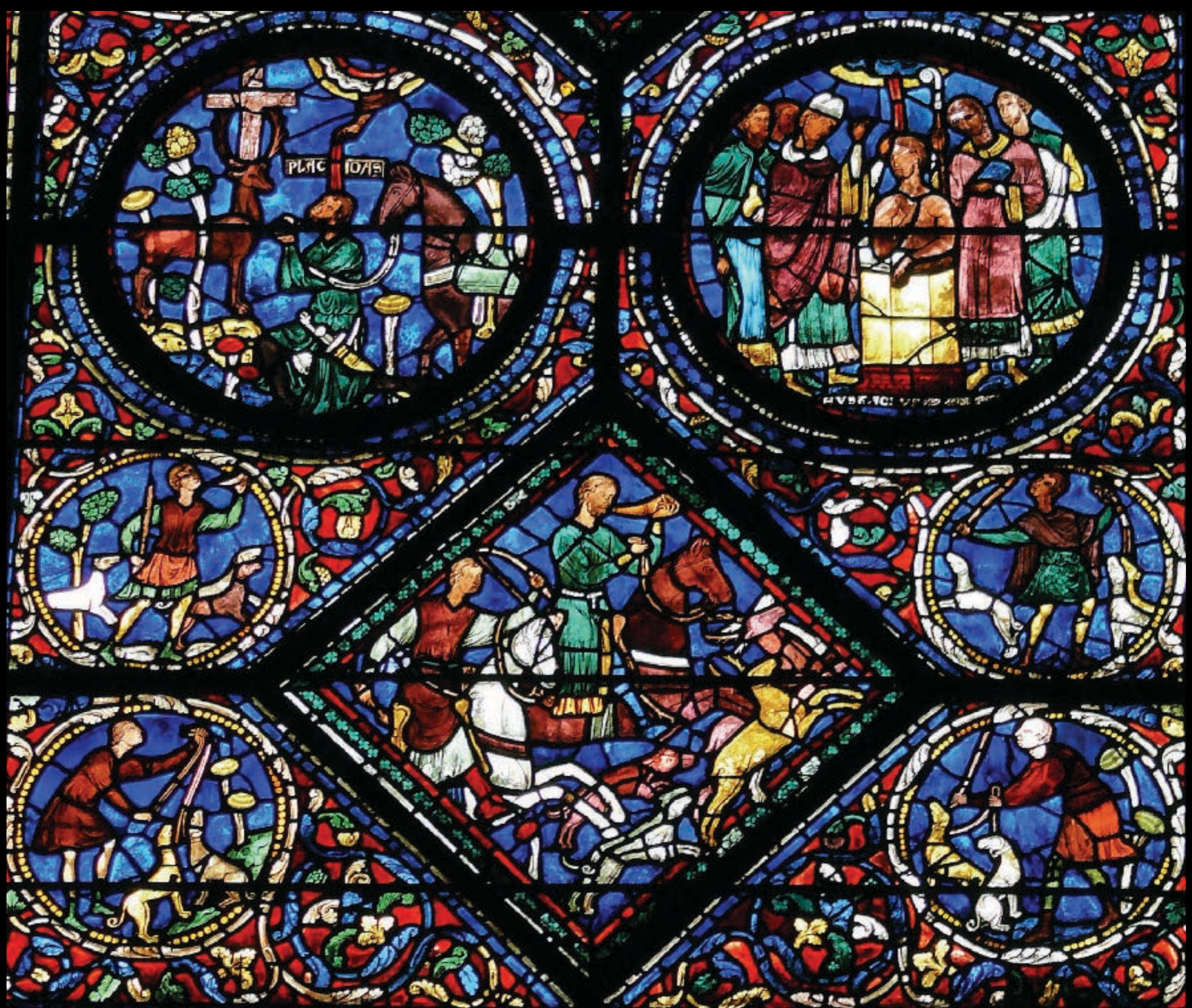
*Martyrdom of Thomas Beckett
South Porch*

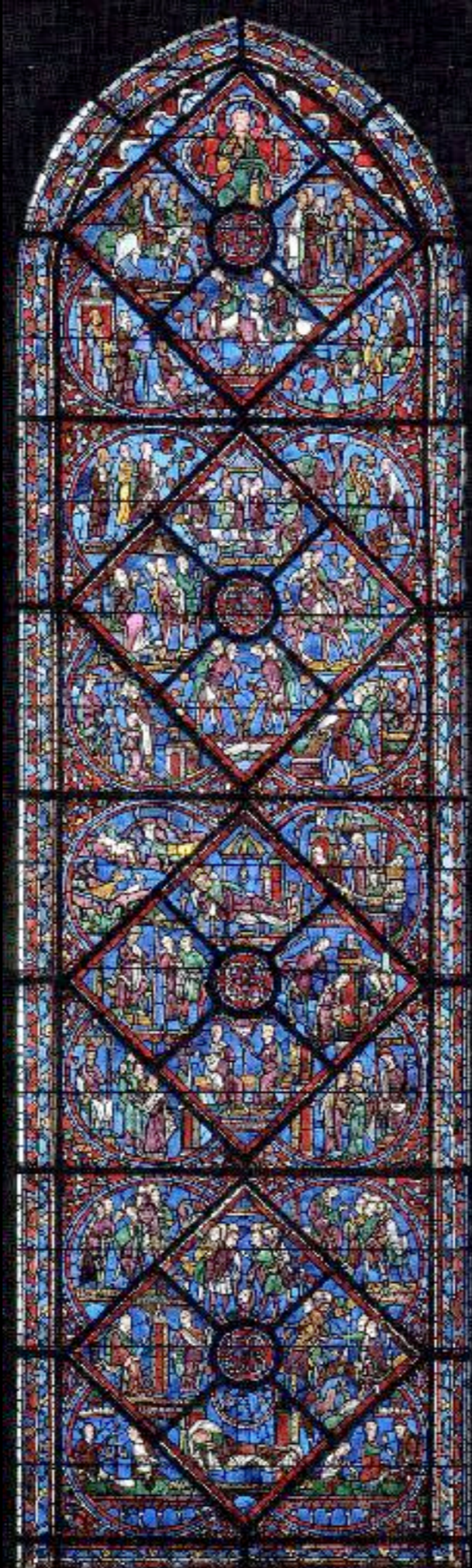


Every turn a thinking place.

North of the Labyrinth: Story of St. Eustache [2nd Century Martyr]







Joseph Window

Life,
death,
and resurrection





© J. Gibson 2014









Virgin in Majesty
Mary Throne of Wisdom
Theotokos: God-bearer






















Related imagery around the labyrinth







Feet in the stained glass
visible from the labyrinth

God said to Moses,
“Remove the sandals from your feet.
for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”

Exodus 3:5









Voragine's etymology for the names Placidus and Eustache



Eustace was named tofore his baptism Placidus, which is as much as to say as pleasant to God.

And Eustace is said of eu, that is to say, good, and statics, that is, fortune, therefore Eustace is, as it were, good fortune. He was pleasant to God in his conversation, and after, he held him in good works.



Challine, 17th century historian & Flainville, an 18th-century writer, as well as the Mayor of Chartres when the plaque was removed from the center of the labyrinth affirm a depiction of Theseus & the Minotaur.

Illustration suggested by Bulteau, 1901, not historical



S. GEORGIUS



Wisdom

Might

Understanding

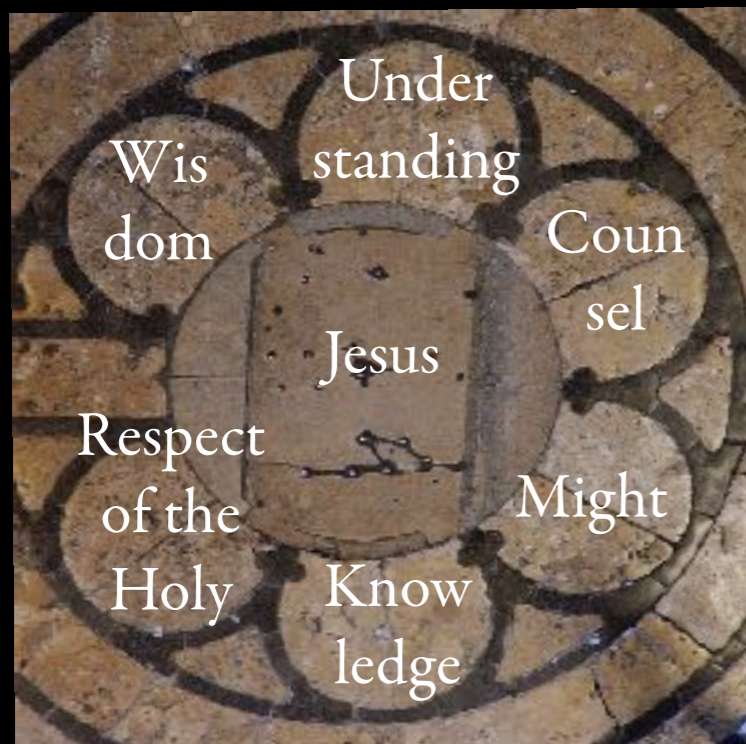
Knowledge

Counsel

Fear of the Lord



*Window in the north clerestory
above the labyrinth
1210-1215*



A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, he spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

Isaiah 11:1-3

*Window to the west of the
labyrinth (1145-1155)*







Mary broach Jesse window





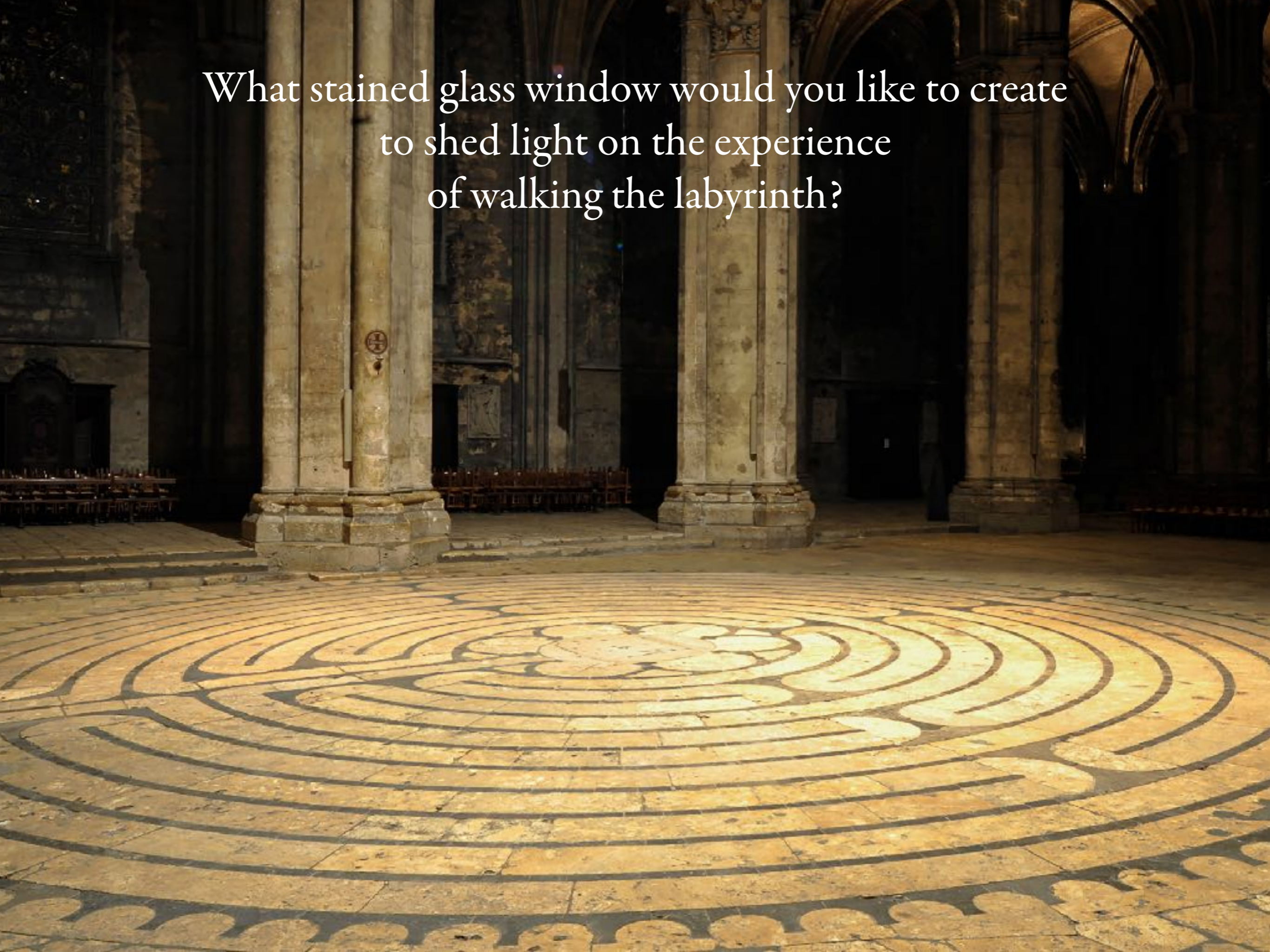
ANNO DOMINI

MARII

1250



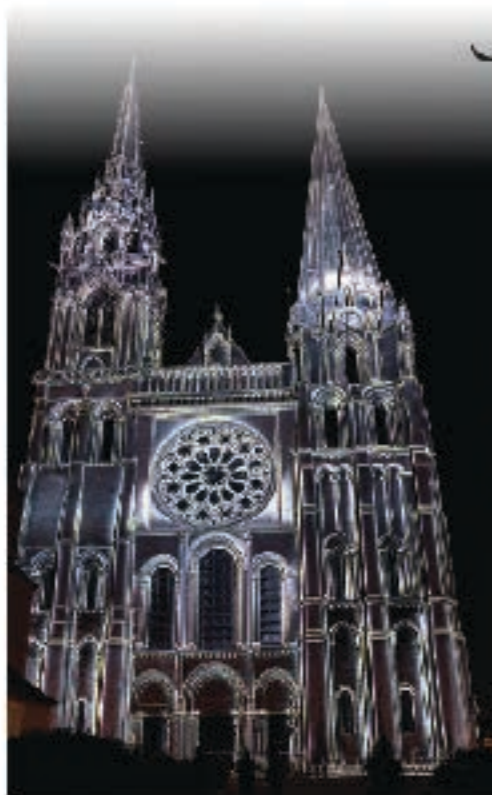
What stained glass window would you like to create to shed light on the experience of walking the labyrinth?





What questions come
to mind and heart?

The Treasures of the Labyrinth and the Chartres Cathedral



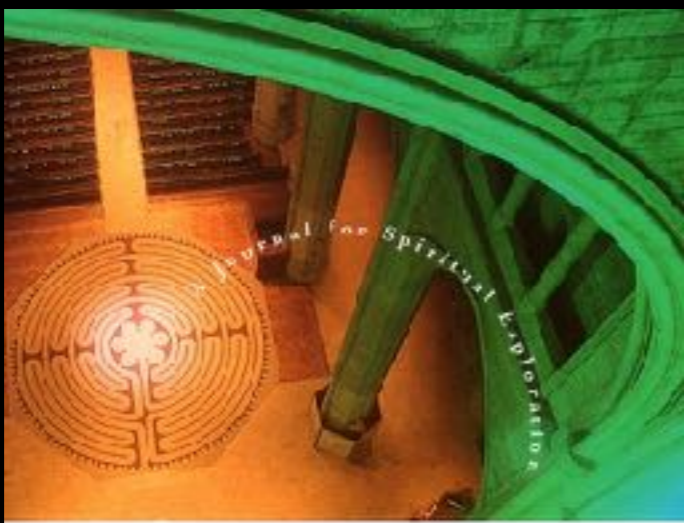
June 10-14, 2024

A Walking a Sacred Path Pilgrimage
in Chartres, France

with the Rev. Jill K. H. Geoffrion, Ph.D. D.D. hosted by the Reverend Dr. Lauren Artress

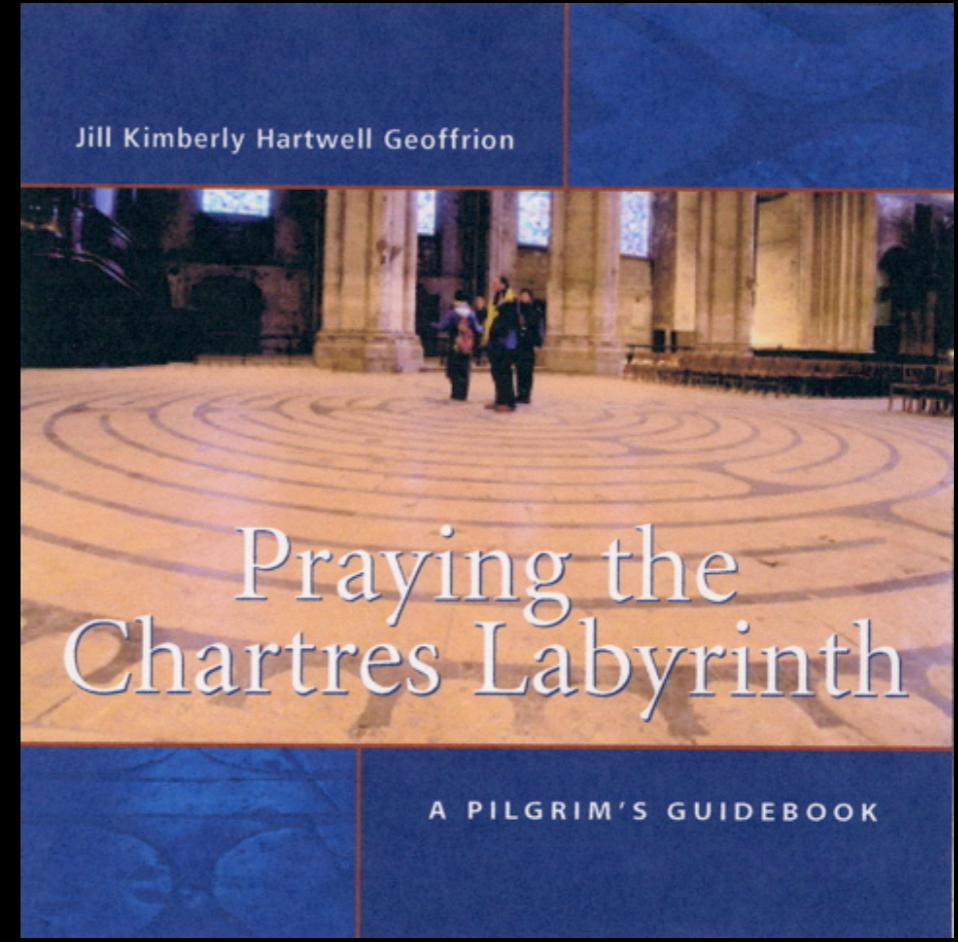
What makes the Chartres labyrinth special? How can the cathedral context deepen one's experience of walking it? Join Jill Geoffrion as she unveils the celebrated and hidden treasures of the Chartres Cathedral and its labyrinth during an eye-opening and heart-expanding week of pilgrimage. Through visual presentations, embodied explorations, and labyrinth-inspired pilgrim rituals, you will have opportunities to come to know the Cathedral and the Chartres labyrinth deeply in its context. As you study and contemplate the stained-glass windows, sculpture, architecture, and history of the Chartres Cathedral you will understand--with both your mind and body--that the labyrinth on the floor is part of a huge conversation, which involves beauty, mystery, depth, and wonder. Learn on-site how the Cathedral's stained-glass relates to the labyrinth and enjoy discovering images that can inspire you as you walk its path.* Come listen as the echoes of the past resonate with your inner explorations.

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praying the
LABYRINTH

JILL KIMBERLY HARTVELL GEOFFRION
Foreword by Lauren Artress



Jill Kimberly Hartwell Geoffrion

Praying the
Chartres Labyrinth

A PILGRIM'S GUIDEBOOK



THE KEY: JILL K. H. GEOFFRION, Ph.D., is well known for her work on the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth, work that has led to the publication of several books and numerous scholarly and popular articles. She has also published a guide for pilgrims and researchers on Chartres and spends a considerable part of each year in residence there. Her work as a professional photographer captures the unique character and inspiration of this church, as well as other sacred sites around the world. As a guide, visiting teacher, and retreat facilitator at the cathedral, she enjoys connecting the spiritual needs of those who come to Chartres—whether researchers, pilgrims, or visitors—with God's beautiful love in sacrament and prayer. Visit her at www.prayingthechartres.com and www.jillgeoffrion.com.



RELIGION / ARTS / SPIRITUAL STUDIES

This is a book of homage, a luminous introduction to Mary, the Lady of Chartres, with commentary, with a marriage story of photographs, inspired as it is, from Labyrinthia deeply.
—JOHN JACOB, architect and author of *The Geometry of Chartres*

"Beautifully written and especially illustrated. A remarkable book that brings us so authentically Mary's presence and vibrant role."
—MARGARET MILLER, distinguished guide and author of *Chartres Cathedral*

"This should be given to his work, which through the beauty of Mary's representations at Chartres leads us hearts to her own and her heavenly Father."
—BISHOP JOHN WELLS, Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Exeter

ARTIST AND PHOTOGRAPHER: JILL K. H. GEOFFRION captures the spirit of her many years of work at Our Lady of Chartres Cathedral in this superbly illustrated volume. In more than a century of devotion to Mary and in her lifetime as a unique and extraordinary artist, she captures the story of Mary through other avenues of artistic work, theological reflection, and faith.



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Art, Devotion, and Beauty at Chartres Cathedral
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Jill K. H. Geoffrion



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"This is an extraordinary work rich in historical information, theological reflection, and, above all, the author's passionate love of one of Europe's most beautiful buildings, the Cathedral of Chartres. It is also an innovative way in Mariology drawing readers into the mystery of the less-known women in human history."
—MARGARET TIMOTHY VERDON, Director, Mount St. Agnes del Duomo, Florence, Italy, and author of *Jesus and Pope: The Beauty of Being a Girl*

"With a willingness and courage we rarely possess, Mary said 'Yes' to God's work in and through her, without understanding what this might require. She responded simply: 'Yes is to be in accordance with your Word.' I thank Jill Geoffrion, author of this witness to Mary, Our Lady of Chartres."
—MARGARET MARIAN FICHERA, Bishop of Chartres



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www.jillgeoffrion.com

Labyrinth resources: labyrinthprayer.com

Chartres resources: praywithjillatchartres.com

jill.geoffrion@gmail.com