**RS Notes: Transforming the Roman World**

**New Germanic Kingdoms**

* Germanic peoples began moving into the lands of the Roman Empire around the 3rd Century
	+ Visigoths occupied Spain and Italy(Ostrogoths later took control)
	+ Angles and Saxons- Britain
	+ Saxons- Northern Germany
	+ Franks- France
* Longest lasting was the K. of the Franks
	+ **Clovis** established it around 500
		- Strong military leader
		- First Germanic ruler to convert to Christianity- won support of Roman Catholic Church

**The Role of the Church**

* By the 4th C, Christianity had become the supreme religion of the Roman Empire
	+ Developed a system of organization
		- Priests head local parishes
		- A group of parishes=bishopric
			* Headed by a bishop
		- A group of bishoprics=archbishopric
			* Headed by an archbishop
		- The Bishop of Rome came to claim he was the leader of the Roman Catholic Church (the Pope)
			* Based on the belief that Jesus gave Peter the keys to Heaven
				+ Peter=1st Bishop of Rome (1st Pope)
* Most Western Europeans accepted the pope as leader, but his role was undecided
	+ **Pope Gregory I** (590-604) extended the power of the papacy
		- Took political control over Rome and surrounding areas (**Papal States**)
			* Used Church revenues to raise armies
				+ Fought off the Byzantines and the Lombards
		- Extended his power within the Church
		- Converted non-Christians through the monastic movement
* **Monks** separate themselves from worldly, everyday life to dedicate themselves to God
	+ **Monasticism**=living the life of a monk
	+ 6th C- St. Benedict founded an order
		- Divided the day into activities
			* Emphasize prayer and physical labor
			* All aspects of Benedictine life were communal
				+ An **abbot** (“father”) ruled each Benedictine monastery
		- Took a vow of poverty
			* Became the heroes of Christian civilization due to their commitment
		- Became the social workers of society
		- Monasteries became important centers of learning
	+ Monks would spread Christianity
		- **Missionaries**= people sent out to carry a religious message
* Women
	+ Could become **nuns**- dedicate their lives to God
	+ Lived in convents, headed by abbesses
	+ Many belonged to royal houses
		- Only way for women to receive an education
		- The abbess **Hilda** founded a monastery in Whitby in 657
			* Gave learning an important role
			* Educated 5 future bishops

**Charlemagne and the Carolingians**

* 7th century- Frankish kings lost their power
	+ Chief officers of the king took control
		- **Pepin** assumed the throne
* Pepin’s son was Charles the Great (**Charlemagne**)
	+ He was a strong warrior and statesman, and a devout Christian
		- He expanded the Frankish Kingdom into the **Carolingian Empire** (Western and Central Europe)
	+ 800- he was crowned **Roman Emperor**
		- Testifies to the enduring nature of the Roman Empire
		- Symbolized the coming together of the Christian and Germanic elements of society
			* The Pope crowned him Emperor
* Charlemagne strongly supported learning
	+ Led to the **Carolingian Renaissance** (rebirth)
		- Renewed interest in Latin culture and classical works (Greeks and Romans)
		- Monasteries played an important role
			* Benedictine monks copied Christian and Latin manuscripts in writing rooms, called **scriptoria**
			* Most of the Roman works we have today exist because of these Carolingian monks

