Full Experience

Purpose: Describe opening experience, 7 areas, characters, and player interaction

# Player Core Interaction

* 7 areas
* Player can choose order of 4 areas: church, scriptorium, dining hall/kitchen, and infirmary
* Questions

# Opening Experience

NARRATOR

This experience is designed to be listened to in the priory chapter house at the Worcester Art Museum. Find a comfortable place to sit and enjoy.

[AUDIO SETUP]

This is a primarily audio-based experience. Before beginning, use the following setup guide to adjust your audio.

Adjust the volume on your device so that the following tone is at a comfortable level. This is the loudest sound that you will hear during the experience.

[AUDIO TONE]

Some audio in this experience was recorded with binaural or direction-based microphones. For best results, make sure your headphones are in the right ears.

This tone should be heard in the *left* ear:

[LEFT-EAR TONE]

This tone should be heard in the *right* ear:

[RIGHT-EAR TONE]

You will be given the option to interact with the characters in the tour by asking questions. To ask a question, choose one of the prompts available on screen. You may ask as many questions as you like.

# General

Date: About 1200?

# Module 1: Front Gate

## Porter: Brother Richard

### Characterization

## Age-range: elderly

## Local, youngest son of a noble

## been in Order for longer than anyone including prior, but probably not this priory

## Doesn’t want to be on gate duty. Understands that someone should do it, but feels it’s counterproductive. Is suspicious of outsiders.

## Was bored and probably doing something idle to pass the time at the beginning.

## Feels need to suck up to player character both to distract from what he was doing and to stay in the good graces of the prior.

## Key Messages

* Division between outside world and priory; the monks’ attitudes towards keeping the rest of society out
* Outsiders rarely come into the monks’ section of the priory
* As self-sufficient as possible
* Cloister as center of monastic complex
* Benedictine Rule
* Chapter room and meeting

## Ambience

* Outside, daytime ambience
  + Small village or more rural?
  + Sound of birds, insects

## Draft

FADE IN:

EXT. THE FRONT GATE -- AROUND TERCE (9 AM)

Audio clip begins with AMBIENCE (see above). A knock sounds on a wooden door in front of the player. The PORTER (BROTHER RICHARD) opens a window in the door; hinges may squeak as he does this.

BROTHER RICHARD

State your business and be quick about it. Don’t you know this is a place of holy worship?

(SHORT PAUSE)

Oh...wait. I recognize your **badge**. You’re the courier from the **prior’s sister**, Lady **Jeanne** of Niort, aren’t you? And you have a manuscript for us to borrow, by the monk Theophilus? Then one moment.

[PAUSE, AND THEN DOOR IS UNBOLTED AND HINGES CREAK OPEN]

BROTHER RICHARD

(*More diffidently*)

Come in, come in. I’ve been told to expect you. You’re...you’re the Prior’s nephew, yes? Then come inside, my young friend, and **welcome to the Priory of St. John at Le Bas-Nueil.**

This is a **rare** opportunity, you know. Outsiders are not usually allowed in the cloister. **The priory is a place for the worship of God, and we are supposed to have very little contact with the world outside. But the Prior is keen to borrow this book, and he was delighted to hear that you have spoken with your mother about perhaps becoming a novice in our order.** Then let this visit be an opportunity to see something of the life you would be living. You can make it your own little religious pilgrimage, if you will. (*Laughs*)

Well, your uncle is attending to business outside of the priory at the moment, but should be back **before long**. You should deliver the manuscript directly to him. **In the meantime, he has granted you the special privilege of exploring the priory.** I’ll take you to the Cloister to show you the way around.

[FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL OR STONE BEGIN IN THE BACKGROUND.]

The cloister **is this courtyard**, at the center of the priory as it is the center of our lives. The **arcade around it connects all the main buildings of the priory—the Gatehouse, the Refectory, the Kitchen, the Dormitory, the Chapter House, and of course the Church**. **The cloister also serves as a workspace, though as monks our main work is prayer. It’s all governed by the Rule of St. Benedict, written by the greatest abbot of our order, more than five hundred years ago.**

I will let the Chamberlain explain more. He is running the chapter right now. That’s a daily meeting in which we discuss the running of the priory and read a chapter of Benedict’s Rule. It’s held in the chapter house, right over there.

[FOOTSTEPS STOP. FAINT VOICES CAN BE HEARD FROM ONE DIRECTION.]

Well, the chapter appears to still be in progress. While you’re waiting, do you have any questions for me?

CHOICE: Either questions (below) or straight to chapter house. In which case:

BROTHER RICHARD

Oh. Well, I suppose if you think that’s enough….As it happens, it sounds like the meeting is over. You can go in to see the Chamberlain now. (*harrumphs and walks away)*

## Player Interaction

### **Dialogue category #1**

QUESTION 1: Priory

BROTHER RICHARD

A priory is a small monastery. There are only a couple dozen monks living here, plus some lay brothers outside the walls to do some of the heavier labor. Our priory reports to the Abbey of Bourgueil, a day’s journey from here. This priory was founded over a century ago when a local lord donated his estate here to Bourgueil. The estate came with agricultural fields and a watermill that allow us to support ourselves.

QUESTION 2: Work

BROTHER RICHARD

Our real occupation here is religious worship, but we each do our part to make sure the priory is self-sufficient. Today I’m on duty at the gatehouse. Other monks work in the church, copy manuscripts, work in the kitchens, or oversee the labors of the lay brothers. There is always something to do.

QUESTION 3: Outsiders

BROTHER RICHARD

We avoid contact with outsiders as much as is possible. The Prior cannot avoid it, but the rest of us stay inside the cloister unless we’re overseeing the Priory’s land or the watermill. Outsiders are rarely admitted inside, and women never.

QUESTION 4: The Rule

BROTHER RICHARD

The Benedictine Rule tells us how to run a monastery. It tells us when to work, eat and pray, what to wear, and how to govern ourselves. It was written by Saint Benedict many hundreds of years ago for his monastery in Italy. Now there are Benedictine monasteries in all lands that obey the Pope.

QUESTION 5: Prior

Oh, your uncle? He is the leader and moral authority here. He manages the priory and conducts business with the outside world. We may be able to speak our minds during the chapter meeting, but the Prior has the final word in all matters.

### **Dialogue category #2**

[REPLAY LAST AUDIO]

[SOMEHOW THE PLAYER WILL BE DIRECTED TO GO TO THE NEXT AREA. The sounds of monks leaving into the cloister can be heard.]

BROTHER RICHARD

It sounds like the chapter meeting is over. You can go in to see the Chamberlain now.

## Extra Content

## Images

* Useful slideshow information/pictures (placeholders)
  + Not yet available
* location on priory map (from signage)
  + Not yet available

# Area 2: Chapter House

## Character: Chamberlain, Brother Anselm

### Characterization

* Age-range: middle-age (40ish equivalent)
* Used to be a knight, now retired -- possibly with a battle injury but doesn’t want to admit it
* Well-organized
* Strong authority in the monastery with booming voice; gives commands precisely and with the expectation that they will be followed
* Concerns himself with management activities more than religious ones
  + talks at length about what it takes to keep the priory running; sees himself as instrumental in that
* Would feel need to play up his importance and be formally polite to the prior’s nephew

## Key Messages

* Hub of priory / Administrative space
* Material life
  + chests for shifts to be washed
  + what their clothing would have looked like
  + What items each monk would be given
* Rejecting owning material possessions helped them achieve piety
* Daily schedule
  + Esp. around religious observances

## Ambience

* Starting sounds: Monks leaving the room, bells(?), end of meeting, clatter in the cloister
* While inside the room: Conversations, someone opening a chest, footsteps

## Draft

INT. CHAPTER HOUSE, AFTER TERCE -- [9:30ish]

A few voices can still be heard in the chapter house, having a conversation in the background.

BROTHER ANSELM

I see by your clothes that you are no monk. Then you must be the Prior’s nephew. Well met. I am Brother Anselm, the Chamberlain.

It is an honor to have you here in our priory, as I hope you understand the honor it is for you. If you wish to find out what it is to be a monk, then there is no better opportunity. As Chamberlain, I am responsible for the day-to-day lives of the monks and organize everything that we need.

When you enter into your own monastery, you will have to do away with all **the fine clothes and adornments of a noble household**. Your chamberlain will issue you everything you need -- your tunic and cowl, your comb, **your writing pen, all of it**. Never make the mistake of believing that these items belong to you. You will take a vow of poverty when you become a monk so that you can live a pious life, free from the distraction of material things.

You will also have to get used to a **rigorous schedule of worship and work**. We rise well before dawn, and go to bed after nightfall. In between we sing the Divine Office six times a day, arranging our work and meals around these times of worship.

Another thing you will have to get used to is being reserved with your speech. In most situations, you will be required to be silent, and speak only when useful or in worship. We do not speak during much of the day, never at meals, and only quietly when permitted. We just finished our silent working period before the morning mass and the chapter **meeting**. We will have another this afternoon.

Well, I think that covers the basics. I think it would be wise to give you the opportunity to speak to some of the other monks, but first, do you have any questions for me? In any event, our brothers are permitted to speak between now and the midday meal, so if you have questions you need only ask.

## Player Interactions

* conduct/organization?

### **Dialogue category #1**

QUESTION 1: Clothing

BROTHER ANSELM

We always wear a white tunic, over which we wear our cowls -- a monk’s **hooded cape**, which is highly important to our identity and must be with us at all times. As you can see by my dress, we wear a black gown over all of this. I provide the monks with extra clothes to keep us warm in winter. And of course we all keep the top of our head shaved—it’s called the tonsure.

QUESTION 2: Sleep

BROTHER ANSELM

We have a communal dormitory above the chapter house. Each monk has an assigned bed and area to store clothing. But we are only up there at night.

QUESTION 3: Chapter meeting

BROTHER ANSELM

Well, for example, today we discussed the assigning of weekly cooks to the kitchen, and read part of the sixth chapter of the Benedictine Rule, regarding the use of speech. Some of our number have become more talkative in the cloister at late, and needed reminding that they should speak constructively or not at all. Normally the Prior might discipline them for their lax behavior, but we shall have to wait until the chapter tomorrow to see what he thinks.

QUESTION 4: Daily routine

BROTHER ANSELM

**We rise while the night is still dark to begin the Divine Office. After the office of Prime at dawn we have our first working period. At midmorning comes Terce, followed by the morning mass and the chapter meeting. From now until midday, we have another working period. Then we will have Sext, High Mass, the midday meal, and another working period. At midafternoon we have None, then another working period. At evening we sing Vespers, then we have supper, followed by a period for silent contemplation. We go to bed after Compline, around nightfall.**

[Make this a separate question?]

Talking is permitted only during the working periods and in the Chapter House. We are silent so much because too much talk leads to frivolousness. We are only permitted to speak to say useful things or to practice devotion to God.

QUESTION 5: items

BROTHER ANSELM

You will be provided with all of the equipment you will need, but as I said before, it will not belong to you, but to the monastery you join. Besides your clothing, you will receive bed linens, and warm clothes for winter, and things necessary for your hygiene such as your comb. Every monk is given a knife for eating and use in chores and you will be expected to wear it during the day. Besides your personal equipment, you will be given any tools needed to complete **your assigned tasks:** those who work in the scriptorium receive pen and ink, those who work in the fields get tools for working the land.

### **Dialogue category #2**

[REPLAY LAST AUDIO]

## Images

* Useful slideshow information/pictures (placeholders)
  + Images of windows and/or carving to show visitors what they are looking at
    - More direct lighting in these images?
    - Augmented with text?

location on priory map (from signage)

## Extra Content

# Area 3: Infirmary

## Character: Infirmarian, Brother **Walter**

* Age-range: Early adult (25-30 equivalent) Maybe make him elderly so he can talk about change over time, as below
* Local, been in Order all his life but possibly not this priory
* Orphan? Wants to help others like the priory helped him
* Interested in helping people, for the altruistic joy of it and because it is required by his faith
* Has a wide variety of knowledge available to him but wishes he could try new things more
* Discusses how people don’t have health care and their resources are limited -- the focus is on the monastery itself, but they try

## Key Messages

* Healthcare and medicine
  + Traditional remedies (that they recorded)
  + Took care of monks and people in the region
  + Took care of elderly monks (retirement/healthcare)
  + only option for a lot of people
  + considered a duty of good Christians to help the sick and poor

## Ambience

* Quiet space?
* Handling dried plants and/or other medicinal items? (bottles clattering around, rustling of plant-based ingredients)
* Coughing from a sick patient

## Draft

BROTHER WALTER

Hello there! You must be the courier, I suppose. Brother Anselm told us to expect you. I am Brother Walter, the Infirmarian. I care for the sick and elderly here in the Infirmary. **The Rule of St. Benedict makes special provision for the care of monks in sickness, and once a monk finishes his time as a novice and takes his vows, he is expected to remain there for life, so when a monk becomes aged and infirm he falls under my care.**

It is of course our Christian duty to help the sick and poor. Such people often do not have the means to visit a physician or an apothecary for medicine. For one such as yourself, it may be hard to imagine a situation in which one may be without life-saving treatment, but without money, it is a reality for many. I sometimes wish we had more opportunities to help...but we must focus on the good of our brothers first, else the life we’ve created here would crumble.

After all, without the works of the Scriptorium, we would have little to help us in our charity work. So many of the volumes of books we copy contain medicinal recipes. Sadly, we do not get many opportunities to test out new ideas here. We rely on the knowledge we gain from our books in order to heal. But I suppose I should not be too disappointed. After all, the ancients were wise and gave us great knowledge, and protecting that knowledge is precious. If we were not to use it, it may become lost forever.

Would you like to hear more about the Infirmary? I am happy to help.

## Player Interaction

QUESTION 1: Elderly

BROTHER WALTER

Once a brother becomes too old and infirm to participate in daily life any more, he comes under my care. That care lasts until the end of their days. When such a brother becomes terminally ill, a lay brother -- one of our common workers -- will be required to stay by his side and provide for his needs. If a brother is close to death, all of the monks are required to rush to the Infirmary to witness his last rites. I have been a part of such an observance only once. It gives me reassurance to know that when it is my time, I am sure to have such good people at my side.

QUESTION 2: Illness

BROTHER WALTER

If one of our brothers falls ill, beyond a common cold, they are usually excused from their duties at first. If they do not get better after a few days, they are brought here to recuperate. The Infirmary is set apart from the rest of the priory to keep such illnesses from spreading. Our brothers who are ill are provided not only with medical care, but with more food to help them regain their strength. The Rule even allows them red meat to help in their recovery. Our Chamberlain provides extra warm clothes for ill monks as well -- it can be quite drafty in these buildings. If my own skills as Infirmarian are lacking, we may bring in an outside physician to help.

**QUESTION 3: Medicine**

**BROTHER WALTER**

**When I was a boy, I recall my nurse bringing me to the guest-house of a monastery to consult about an illness I had. The infirmarian came out to meet us and to recommend a treatment. Even a small priory like ours is the keeper of centuries of medical knowledge—whether it is what I have learned myself, or what I can find in our library. But nowadays noblemen are more likely to hire the services of a city physician—there weren’t as many of them when I was young.**

**QUESTION 4: Novice**

**A boy in his teens is old enough to become a novice at a monastery. For a year you live with the monks, learning what the monastic life requires. At the end of that time you make a choice: take the vows, and live the rest of your days under the authority of the Rule, or return to the world outside. But once you make the choice, there is no turning back! You may not even pass outside the gatehouse of your monastery without the permission of your abbot or prior.**

## Images

* Useful slideshow information/pictures (placeholders)
  + Pictures of items of tasks they might do: manuscripts, laundry equipment, etc.
  + Picture of typical existing priory cloister?
  + location on priory map (from signage)

## Extra Content

# Area 4: Church

## Character: Sacristan, Brother **William**

### Characterization

* Age-range: Young (20-25 modern equivalent)
* Newly in the position
* Local boy -- young, came from an influential merchant family but definitely the “scholarship boy” of the group, and wants to do well
* Only qualified to be a full monk a few years ago, but promising
* Completely rejects outside world.
* Singing a song when you come in; doesn’t see people much during this time of the day and welcomes conversation
* Gets optimism from his beliefs

## Key Messages

* Church and religious observances were center of daily life
  + Day structured around observances
* Main job was religious piety
  + Other jobs were secondary to this and only to keep monastery running
  + Most of day spent on religious duties, not on secular work

## Ambience

* Very echoey room
  + If no observances going on, mostly silence
* At start, the echoey voice of the sacristan singing a song

## Draft

[INCOMPLETE, NEEDS EDITING]

The audio begins with the SACRISTAN, BROTHER WILLIAM, singing a hymn alone at the front of the church. His voice echoes in the room. The sounds of clinking metal and wax candles can be heard (he is changing out the candles near the choirbox).

BROTHER WILLIAM

(THE SINGING STOPS)

Oh! Hello! I didn’t hear you come in. You must be that courier that the Chamberlain spoke of. I’m Brother William, the Sacristan here.

(SOUND OF CLATTERING CANDLES)

You’ll have to excuse me. I was just replacing the candles in the choirbox. I have to make sure they stay in good condition and don’t drip. **We need them to be bright for the nighttime observances of the Divine Office, but it would be a tragedy if they dripped on the choirbooks—the monks couldn’t read either the words or the notes!**

(SHORT PAUSE, MORE CLATTERING)

There, that’s better. (*Dusts off hands*) So, are you thinking of becoming a monk, then? I’m afraid this is a rather unglamorous side to the church. As Sacristan, I have to make sure that all the material needs of the church are met. That means cleaning up a lot of candle wax. **I’m also responsible for looking after the clothing and vestments we use for celebrating Mass.**

**This church is much more impressive when we are chanting the Divine Office. The monks gather here to sing from the choirbook. When you can hear the hall echo with all their voices, it truly is a spiritual experience. We celebrate Mass here too, of course. The Prior usually does that—not many of the monks are actually priests.**

* times of divine offices (night, major observances)
* Details about what a High Mass or such might entail?

## Player Interaction

QUESTION 1: Divine Office

BROTHER WILLIAM

**The Divine Office is the cycle of prayers that we sing together every day—you might say it is the main reason monks exist. It starts with Nocturns, while the night is still dark; then Prime at dawn, Terce at midmorning, Sext at midday, None at midafternoon, Vespers at evening, and Compline at nightfall. That’s in addition to two masses, at morning and noon. All the monks sing, but only those who are ordained as priests can officiate at a Mass. Everything else we do is scheduled around these observances.**

QUESTION 2: Sacristan

BROTHER WILLIAM

**I fulfill the material needs of the church. This means caring for the candles, the reliquaries, any decorations or artwork, and donations from wealthy patrons. The life of the world outside is full of sin, and many people are eager to support the prayers of monks to help them win forgiveness in the eyes of God.**

QUESTION 3: Church

**Our church was finished only a few decades ago, in the new style they developed around Paris. You can see it even better in the Chapter House, which was started around the time they were finishing the church. The graceful columns and ribbed vaulting overhead give the building an elegance you won’t find even in your father’s great hall, I expect.**

## Images

* Useful slideshow information/pictures (placeholders)
  + picture of typical church
  + picture of Bible of period
  + stained glass
  + choir area
  + location on priory map (from signage)

## Extra Content

# Area 5: Refectory/Kitchen

## Character: Cellarer, Brother **Martin**

* Age-range: Middle-age (35-40 as modern equivalent)
* Local, noble’s son
* Jovial person who speaks softly (subtly) of issues in the monastery
* Cynical humor (“can’t interrupt the meal. It would be heresy...of a sort.”)
* Misses meat, wishes they could have it

## Key Messages

* What they ate
  + Rationed food, but pretty good portions for the time
  + no red meat
  + basic meals
    - bread, ale, seafood
    - some simple recipes
* How they ate
  + share plates of food, drinking containers
  + no talking -- use sign language
  + listen to Bible passages during meal
    - continuing theme of silence and contemplation of religion
* provided food for poor, travelers, and pilgrimagers
* considered a duty not to waste food, clothing, materials
* cleanliness?

## Ambience

* Kitchen only, preparing for midday meal
  + sound of chopping, utensils clattering, running water
  + Fire crackling
  + Quite loud & bustling

## Draft

BROTHER MARTIN

Look lively, my fellow! Do not get in the way, or that tray my brother is carrying might give you quite a head injury.

Pardon the rush, but we can’t slow down. The cooks have much work to do before dinner is served, and we can’t be late -- t’would be heresy...of a sort.

So, I hear that you are the Prior’s nephew. News travels fast in such a small community. Is there something I can do for you? I can offer you a morsel, considering you traveled so far, but -- ah, I see you are looking for something less tangible. You want to know how all of this works. Well, sit down and have some bread **and cheese**, and I’ll tell you.

I’m the Cellarer here. Brother Martin is my name. I’m in charge of the food supplies and the cooks as well. Every day, we serve two meals -- one towards midday and one towards evening. In winter we eat less, and later in the day, but no one wants to hear about that! In summer, dinner is our midday meal, after High Mass, much more to my fancy.

I must say, if there is one thing I miss of the outside world, its good red meat. What I wouldn’t give just for some pork on a trencher of fresh bread -- Mmm! I must confess to some jealousy that our Prior has occasion to eat at the tables of nobility so often in his work. **Oh, but please don’t tell your uncle! I would certainly be punished at the next chapter meeting for saying such things.**

**Well, our food may be plain and dull, but at least we never lack for it, even in times of poor harvest. Saint Benedict knew that monks needed to eat sensibly.** Each monk receives a pound of bread a day in addition to our regular meals of beans and boiled vegetables. Depending on the day, we’ll also receive extra dishes of food, like eggs, cheese, and fruit, and occasionally seafood. On special occasions we might have dumplings or other treats. Of course, this does not include fasting days, when we have only one meal, **but we’re always fed well enough to do our work.**

My apologies -- when working with food all day, it tends to be on one’s mind. You may be wondering why my staff is so quiet, when it is still the **nonsilent** [never mentioned] working period. Cooks are never allowed to talk in the kitchen, but they are allowed to sing hymns when washing the dishes. It passes time. We are not allowed to idly chatter over our meals, either. During our meals in the Refectory, we are required to remain silent--if we need something, we use hand signals to ask for it.

Well, that’s all I can think of for now. Is there anything else you’d like to ask me about?

## Player Interaction

QUESTION 1: Cellarer

BROTHER MARTIN

The brothers each take a turn cooking in the kitchen for a week, but I am here all the time. I determine what food is served when, and decide what goes on the extra plates that the brothers get. I have to make sure that the brothers eat things like cheese, fruit and fish regularly, to keep them healthy. And I have to keep a close eye over the food stores -- it’s expensive to let food go to waste, you know, and against our Order’s Rule.

QUESTION 2: Food

BROTHER MARTIN

Looking for examples? Well, most days we have boiled beans and vegetables, with bread and wine and seasoned with salt. For fruit we might have apples or pears, and we have cheese regularly too. **Seafood usually means fish caught from the Priory’s millpond, but on special occasions we might get eel or lamprey**. On very special occasions, like feast days, we might make something like dumplings or pancakes.

QUESTION 3: Hand signals

BROTHER MARTIN

If you were asking for a plate, you might put your hand out flat. Or, if you were looking for fish, you might wave your hand around like a fish’s tail. It depends on the monastery, of course, but most of the signs relate to the item in some way. You’ll learn the signs over time.

QUESTION 4: Refectory

BROTHER MARTIN

**That’s where we take our meals. One of the brothers reads from Scripture or some other holy text, while the rest eat. Not only do they hear the word of God, but they see it depicted on the walls, which are adorned with paintings that show the stories of the New Testament.**

## Images

* Kitchen
  + simple foods or illustrations of foods
  + example room
  + example cooking utensils or ovens
  + location on priory map (from signage)
* Dining hall
  + basic recipes or illustrations of recipes
  + example dining hall -- empty or with tables and benches
  + illustration of someone reading during a meal?
  + manuscript passages that might be read
  + location on priory map (from signage)

## Extra Content

# Area 6: Scriptorium

## Character: Precentor, Brother **Conrad**

### Characterization

* Age-range: Middle age (30-40 modern equivalent)
* From Germany: little known but impressive illustrator, prior happy to have him
* Discusses his work from an intellectual, almost secular viewpoint (more interested in form, function, ideas than the religiousness of said ideas).
* softly spoken, even taciturn, but speaks more when asked about his work and quickly becomes enthusiastic
  + possibly nervous around others and doesn’t know what to say

## Key Messages

* Center of learning and preservation of knowledge
  + Rare in time period
* Preserved important texts, both religious and secular
  + Made their own “corrections”, though….
  + Recorded traditional remedies for the Infirmary's use
* Traded works with other monasteries and borrowed from powerful secular groups
* Also, precentor in charge of religious texts in church

## Ambience

The player should be able to hear scratching of quills on paper, and any of the following sounds: chalk on parchment, people shifting wooden chairs or desks, clattering of quills in ink wells, ambient noise of people in the room (low voices talking, coughing, etc.)

## Draft

BROTHER CONRAD

*(thick accent)* Hello.

(PAUSE)

You are the Prior’s nephew, yes? I do not know what to say. I am the Precentor. I look after the religious texts and the Scriptorium. We copy manuscripts here.

(PAUSE)

Is that the manuscript you brought? May I take a look at it?

*(A heavy parchment* ***codex*** *passes between hands. It is carefully opened [note that they are using books (called a codex) not scrolls])*

(*speaking more quickly)* Marvelous. Truly marvelous. Theophilus’ *Schedula diversarum artium*, the *List of Various Arts*. A collection of the secrets to the creation of great artistic works and in particular, the secrets of illumination—**recipes for rich blues, brilliant yellows, flaming reds**. Not only does Theophilus reveal the secrets of painting, he also tells us how to work metal and color glass for windows. To hold an original copy in my hands is a truly rare opportunity. **The Prior’s sister had this copy made in Paris, I suppose?**

**You know, Theophilus was a German, like me. I know we’re a long way from Germany, but there are Benedictine monasteries in every Christian land—we monks serve wherever we are called. I’ve learned some French, but Latin is the language we monks use among ourselves.**

**Anyway, this is a fine manuscript. We’ll give it to one of our copiers, who will produce a true copy on good vellum. Then, one of our illustrators will add color and embellishments to the text, and pictures in the margins. I may do the illustrations myself, for I would love to work on this book – I could even use some of Theophilus’s own recipes to adorn his work.**

(PAUSE)

(*More quietly)* Please, excuse my enthusiasm. I am not sure I answered what you came to ask, but I do not know what else to say.

## Player Interaction

QUESTION 1: Scriptorium

BROTHER CONRAD

**Saint Benedict prescribed a combination of prayer and labor to foster piety in his monks. Working in the fields is all well and good, but any peasant can do that. Not many people know how to read and write, but we monks need our letters in order to study Holy Scripture. So copying old books is one of the most useful works we can do. If we didn’t copy these books, where would Christians find the knowledge to understand God, to heal His creatures, or to create beautiful things for His glory?**

QUESTION 2: Precentor

BROTHER CONRAD

**I look after the religious texts as well as the work that goes on in the Scriptorium. The priory has a small library, which I keep under lock and key: the monks come to me when it is time for them to read or copy a book. Of course, some of these books are by pagan authors, and I am careful to make sure that only wise monks have access to books that could endanger a Christian soul.**

QUESTION 3: Manuscripts

BROTHER CONRAD

**We keep all sorts of manuscripts here, and sometimes monks produce new ones. Our collection is humble compared to the great monastic houses, but it is the best for miles around—we have books by ancient and modern authors, books of grammar, of religion, of medicine, even of poetry.**

QUESTION 5: Illustration

BROTHER CONRAD

Without illustrations, these manuscripts would look very dull. We use a variety of pigments, often bright blue and red and green, and sometimes edge the lettering in gold. The illustrations help supplement the text, and demonstrate the religious messages of many of the stories held within.

## Extra Content

## Images

# Area 7: Chapter House

## Character: Prior, Peter of Niort

### Characterization

* Age-range: Middle-age (45-55 as modern equivalent)
* Only member of the monastery to go outside on a regular basis
* For a monk, maintains strong ties to the outside world
* Sees himself as a moral guide to his nephew (player-character)
* Values knowledge highly
* Sees life in the monastery as a way of self-betterment
* Has a weakness that the outside world lets him have, but knows he shouldn’t: fancy food and meat, perhaps
  + misses it, asks about it or talks about it at length with player?
* May manage less but holds high-level view (summarizer) and acts as moral authority, focusing on the ethics of actions instead of simply who should do what

## Key Messages

* Summing up and review of what the player has learned
* Tie back into: Religion, knowledge, and self-sufficient life in the service of God

## Ambience

* One of the only places they could speak freely
* Opened onto cloister
* Meetings held in the morning -- what would have been happening outside in the cloister during this time? Would all monks attend or only some? Would some stay after the meetings to discuss things and was talking allowed after the meetings if in the room?

## Draft

PRIOR PETER OF NIORT

Ah yes, come in. I apologize for not being here when you arrived, but I hear from Brother Anselm that you have had a useful experience in my absence.

I suppose I should introduce myself properly, **since the last time I saw you, you were no more than a baby in swaddling clothes**. I am Prior Peter of Niort. **It is a pleasure to welcome my sister’s son to my priory.**

I am sad to say I have not seen Jeanne in many years, though I have heard good things from her letters to me. You look quite like her in some regards.

Well, I believe you have something for me. Do your duty and deliver it.

(SOUND OF MANUSCRIPT CHANGING HANDS)

Thank you for bringing it so far. In your own way, you have helped to preserve great knowledge today. **The knowledge in this book can be taught from one person to another, but through books we can learn from people far away, even from people long dead. I would like to think that this book will help monks continue making beautiful things in God’s honor for many centuries to come.**

But you had a more direct goal in coming here today. I hope you found our humble priory to be of interest to you. Perhaps you learned something that you did not know before. When you leave today, I hope that you will compare the outside world to the one within this cloister, and find yourself wishing to return to this life. There are not many ways to live that are as noble, and as enlightening, as this one. **But that is something you and your family must decide for yourselves.**

## Player Interaction

Well, I would like to see what you have learned in your time here. Would you like to see if you have what it takes to be a monk?

=> **No, I’m happy to think about it on my own.**

Response: **Well, fare you well then. Return to your earthly delights and possessions, I suppose I cannot blame you. But I hope you will reflect on what you have learned here.**

=> **Yes, please quiz me, I’m eager to show you what I’ve learned.**

Response: Good! Nice to see one so eager to test their mettle. Let us see how well you fare.

*(The following questions will be provided based on what questions asked-- will pick about 3 to 5 options from list. If no questions asked, quiz questions will be based on KEY topics from each section and will not need the player to ask questions in order for them to know the answers. Options as listed below may not appear in the same order in the finished product.)*

*VERY ROUGH DRAFT -- QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WILL BE CHANGED!*

#### Front Gate

* When do we usually allow outsiders into the priory?
  + Almost never
  + Relatives only
  + When we don’t feel like going outside
* What is the Benedictine Rule?
  + A guide for monastic life
  + The rule of absolute silence
  + The daily meeting
* What is the cloister used for?
  + Daily work
  + Chanting
  + Nothing; it’s just an open space between buildings

#### Chapter House

* What is the chapter house used for?
  + Daily meetings
  + Discussing the Benedictine Rule
  + Discipline
  + All of the above
* Who owns a monk’s gear?
  + The monk
  + The monastery he lives in
  + Nobody
* What is the focus of the priory’s daily schedule?
  + daylight
  + the Divine Office
  + meals
* Which part of a monk’s clothing is the most important to him?
  + the habit
  + the tunic
  + the hood

#### Infirmary

* What options would poor commoners have if we were not here to help them?
  + Medicare
  + witch doctors
  + nothing
* What do we do if a monk is no longer able to work?
  + Throw them out in the cold
  + Send them somewhere else
  + Provide health care for the rest of their lives
* How do we care for the sick?
  + Pray and hope they get better
  + Provide medicine and extra food
  + You don’t

#### Church

* What does the Sacristan do?
  + Look after the religious texts
  + Lead Mass
  + Look after the material needs of the Church
* What do the monks do during Mass?
  + Take turns giving the sermon
  + Sing in the choir
  + Just listen to the service
* What is the Divine Office?
  + A series of observances throughout the day
  + The Prior’s office
  + A set of rules for how the monks should live their lives

#### Dining Hall/Kitchens

* What are the monks not allowed to eat?
  + meat
  + seafood
  + special foods like dumplings
* What do the monks do while eating?
  + Just eat
  + Listen to a reader of the Scripture
  + Talk
* Who works in the kitchens?
  + The Cellarer and dedicated cooks
  + The Cellarer and dedicated lay brothers
  + The Cellarer and weekly cooks

#### Scriptorium

* What does the Precentor do?
  + Manage the religious texts of the church
  + Manage the material needs of the church
  + Manage the priory
* What is illumination?
  + Supplementing manuscripts with images
  + copying manuscripts
  + Enlightening younger monks in the ways of copying
* What is the purpose of the Scriptorium?
  + To copy and preserve texts
  + To preserve old texts and make “corrections”
  + To teach monks how to make stained glass

## Extra Content

## Images

* Useful slideshow information/pictures (placeholders)
  + Images of windows and/or carving to show visitors what they are looking at
    - More direct lighting in these images?
    - Augmented with text?
  + location on priory map (from signage)