

# **Paray le Monial**

**The church, now called the Sacred Heart, gives as closely as possible an idea of what was Cluny III: 3 naves instead of 5, 3 chapels instead of 5. Other features are faithful.**

**A quiet cloister is adjoining the church. The monks could enter it directly by a Romanesque portal.**

**The City Hall is a former mansion of the Renaissance.**

**The city is one of the busiest pilgrimage of France.**

## **Cluny**

**In 910, William, Count of Auvergne, founded the Abbey of Cluny, which he placed under the patronage of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, under the direct control of the Pope and so, out of the secular powers.**

**Carolingian kings rather absent here, nordic invaders, aristocrat rackets.**

**This Benedictine haven became during centuries the intellectual center of the Christian West.**

**Quickly too small, Cluny I is replaced by Cluny II in 981. Then Cluny III was started in 1080 and dedicated in 1095 by Pope Urban II as he was going to the Council of Clermont (preach of the First Crusade). Cluny III was completed only in 1220.**

**For three centuries, until the rebuilding of Rome's St. Peter, it was the largest religious building in the West (187 m long ...).**

**Independent of royal powers, episcopal and seigneurial power, Cluny swarmed throughout latin christendom, counting up to 10 000 monks divided into 1 200 schools: England, Spain (north), Italy, Holy Roman Empire...**

**Construction of villages around churches, clearing land, planting, education, initiation of pilgrimages (Compostela, Jerusalem, etc. ..) were their work outside, with a sense of extraordinary adaptability: one recognizes immediately a Romanesque church, is it in Burgundy stones, lava, granite or limestone ...**

**Cluny was an intellectual center and a cultural flagship: library more important than that of Monte Cassino, research center of philosophy, of Roman law and of work organization, etc. ... People formed here occupied civil or religious functions throughout Europe.**

**The decline occurred gradually when the Pope began to appoint abbots.**

**The Revolution delivered the church to the populace and was so plundered ; the archives were burned in 1793, the church was sold to a city of Lyon merchant and served as a quarry until 1813.**

**Less than 10% of the surface of Cluny III remains today.**

**Premises are occupied by an engineering school of Arts and Trades (the Gadzarts and their typical blouses ...).**

**One can see a 3-D projection, very close to the original nave of the abbey.**