

Diocesan Letter on the Matter of Church Thefts  
Archbishop Ulrich of Reims & Clergy

Trans. W. L. North from the edition of J.-P. Migne, *Patrologia Latina* 133, cols. 963D-964D; published originally in *Actes de la Province de Reims* I, p. 621.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bishop Ulrich, Archdeacon Rudolf, and the entire clergy of the church of Reims to all the children of the Church.

Certain wicked and perverse persons, who entered the temple of God with criminal intent when they ought to have beseeched God's mercy and devoted themselves to prayers, were unafraid to crave acts of theft and sacrilege at the urging of the devil. Certain of these persons, whom we still have not identified, entered this basilica of the blessed Mary, Mother of God, and did not fear to remove the *pallium* upon the altar of the Holy Cross; but certain other things have also recently been removed, namely the linens from the bed of Frederick, the church's janitor, and from the chapel of St Peter within the cloister a priestly vestment in the present year, and a Missal last year. We excommunicate and anathematize the sacrilegious thieves of all of these things by the power [*virtus*] and authority of omnipotent God the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, in the power [*virtus*] of the Holy Cross, and on the basis of the virginity of the blessed Mary, Mother of God, and the authority of St Peter, prince of the apostles, and of all the saints, that they be excommunicated and separated from participation in the body and blood of Christ, from entry into the church, and from the society of all Christians, until they come to emend [their ways] and [render] satisfaction or return the aforementioned things which they have taken to this church.