

monks, as well as to the dukes, counts, armies, and inhabitants of France.

"I Peter, the apostle, called by Christ the Son of the living God, in virtue of a decree of the sovereign clemency, to enlighten, by means of his power, all the universe, even as the Lord our God has confirmed, in saying: Go! teach all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; and again; Receive ye the Holy Ghost; the sins shall be remitted to those to whom ye shall have remitted them; and addressing me, his poor servant, called an apostle, and recommending to me in particular his sheep, he said to me: Feed my sheep, feed my lambs; and again Thou art Peter, and on this rock (petram) I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it; and I will give thee the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound also in Heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth it shall so be done in Heaven likewise.

"Let all those, therefore, who have heard and fulfilled what I have preached to them, rest assured, that their sins are, by the order of God, forgiven them in this world; and henceforward, let them preserve themselves pure and unspotted. You, whose hearts the Holy Spirit has enlightened, you, whom the preaching of the evangelic word has made lovers of the holy and undivided Trinity, the hope of your future reward is, without doubt, attached to this church of God, the Apostolic and Roman Church.

"It is for this cause, I Peter, apostle of God, who have adopted you as my children, stimulate and exhort your charity to defend this city of Rome and the people which is confided to me, to protect them against their enemies; to preserve the House where I dwell, according to the flesh, from the pollutions of the nations; and to deliver the Church of God, which the Divine Power has entrusted us with; which things I solicit and adjure of you, because of the afflictions and oppressions which they have endured from the very wicked nation of the Lombards. Do not deceive yourselves my beloved friends; but be certified that it is I myself that, living, you behold before you: that it is I myself, in person, who conjures you, and addresses to you these exhortations. Because that, according to the promise which we have received from our Lord God and Redeemer, we cherish you, ye people of France, above every nation; therefore we convey to you as in an enigma and conjure you earnestly, you three very christian kings, Pepin, Charles, and Carloman, and all the priests, bishops, abbots, and monks, and all judges, also the dukes, counts, and people of France; therefore it is, I say, behold me as present in the flesh and living before you, myself, Peter, the Apostle of God. Believe indeed, that I speak to you, that I exhort