

Wholly different in tone is Book III, where Benedictus fields a coordinated campaign against chorbishops across six different capitula. The emphases of this program, anticipated already in Book II, are that the papacy has long prohibited chorbishops, and that the sacraments they perform are invalid and to be repeated. The first item, BL 3.98, restates *Episcoporum relatio*, c. 6 as at BL 1.320f., this time in the normal form, without the break before Antioch c. 10. Here we find the same minor yet distinctive variants as in BL 1.320f. and Ps.-Leo extravagans⁶⁸.

The centrepiece of Benedictus Levita's attack on the chorepiscopate follows at BL 3.260. This long and notorious forgery presents Charlemagne lamenting that the *non parva quaestio de chorepiscoporum superstitione* has arisen many times. The clergy worry that priests, deacons and subdeacons consecrated by chorbishops have not received valid ordinations; the laity fear that the confirmation imparted by these doubtfully ordained clergy hurts more than it helps. Charlemagne therefore dispatches Archbishop Arn of Salzburg to ask the advice of Pope Leo III, and Leo answers that chorbishops have long been condemned by his predecessors, by many other bishops and by various councils. It is therefore unnecessary to raise the matter anew and it should be sufficient to observe what has already been decreed. Arn reports Leo's decision to Charlemagne; chorbishops, he says, are not to ordain priests, deacons or subdeacons, nor to dedicate churches, consecrate virgins, or impart confirmation. Those who do so are responsible for usurping the episcopal ministry. The rites they have performed are to be repeated by members of the regular episcopate, *quia, quod non ostenditur gestum, ratio non sinit, ut videatur iteratum*. Leo holds that chorbishops themselves are to be exiled, but Arn and Charlemagne convince him to take a milder line and permit them to keep their positions, provided they assume their proper place among the priests. Charlemagne reports that his Regensburg synod has confirmed Leo's pronouncement, and required that regularly ordained bishops repeat whatever consecrations or confirmations chorbishops have been responsible for⁶⁹.

Plainly, Ps.-Leo III of BL 3.260 and the Ps.-Leo of J³ †1118 must have some specific relationship to each other. No other text ascribed to a Leo forbids chorbishops from ordaining priests and deacons, consecrating virgins and churches, and imparting confirmation. Al-

68) See above, p. 500f. with note 62.

69) Ed. PERTZ, MGH LL 2, 2 (as n. 63) p. 118a l. 57 – p. 118b l. 65. For sources and much enlightening commentary see also SECKEL, *Studien zu Benedictus Levita VIII*, Teil II, NA 40 (1915) p. 15–130 at p. 22–31.