

his authority so that France could be united under Pepin. This was done with little difficulty (so to speak) but Pepin felt the slight degree of uneasiness which he felt could be overcome if he were recognized king of the Franks by some unequivocal and yet well recognized authority. Only the church held this rank in his view and to the church he turned.

Conceiving of the church as the one institution everyone recognized, Pepin concluded that if the church recognized his rule it would unite the nation and give him the support he needed. He proposed to Zachary (pope from 741-752) that if he would recognize his rule over the Franks, Pepin would carve out some lands in Italy for Papal possession, administration and income as well as some other benefits. Zachary was willing to do this but died first and the lot fell to Stephen in 754. Pepin was recognized as king of the Franks...the Franks recognized the Vatican sway and surrendered certain lands for Papal administration. The harmonious arrangement looks like this in a final draft:

--the Bishop of Rome recognizes the king of the Franks and asks all loyal Christians of those lands to support him. It is supposed that all loyal citizens are Christians.

--the King of the Franks recognizes the Bishop of Rome as the person with king-appointing power and while caring for the king's interests as well, requires all loyal subjects to support the church and its hierarchy.

--This formula is a powerful force and both kings and bishops will try to use their side of it for leverage over one another in time to come. However the agreement worked in the political/social camps, it was not for the health of the church.

The greatest of the Frankish kings was Charlemagne (king 771-814). He was the first person who could qualify as an emperor in the west in more than 300 years and he conducted vigorous campaigns both in the maintenance and expansion of his empire. By 777 he had overcome the Lombards and by 804 had crushed the Saxons after long and bloody wars. In the meantime he had overcome Bavaria, defeated Asian invaders on the Danube, and enlarged the border against Spain. He created a new "Rome", so to speak, on the imperial