

# AD 538 Laws

## Third Council of Orléans

The third council of national stature, or third Council of Orléans, was a synod of the Catholic bishops of France. It opened around 7 May 538 and was presided over by Loup, Archbishop of Lyon. It established mainly:



Sunday as day of the Lord;

prohibition of field work on Sundays;

Third Council of Orléans. Accessed Jan. 16th, 2024. In *Wikipedia*.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third\\_Council\\_of\\_Orléans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Council_of_Orléans)

"28. Whereas the people are persuaded that they ought not to travel on the Lord's day with the horses, or oxen and carriages, or to prepare anything for food, or to do anything conducive to the cleanliness of houses or men, things which belong to Jewish rather than Christian observances; we have ordained that on the Lord's day what was before lawful to be done may still be done. But from rural work, i.e., plowing, cultivating vines, reaping, mowing, thrashing, clearing away thorns or hedging, we judge it better to abstain, that the people may the more readily come to the churches and have leisure for prayers. If any one be found doing the works forbidden above, let him be punished, not as the civil authorities may direct, but as the ecclesiastical powers may determine."

Joannes Dominicus Mansi, *Sacrorum Conciliorum nova et amplissima collectio*. (A facsimile reproduction of the Florence edition of 1759; reprinted, rearranged, Catholic Church Councils, n.p.: 1901-1927), 9:19 (canon 28) (1902). Translated by A. H. Lewis, *A Critical History of Sunday Legislation* (New York: Appleton, 1888), 64.

"Whatever the holy canons prohibit, these also we by our own laws forbid."

Paul Krueger, *Corpus Iuris Civilis, Codex Iustinianus*, I.3.44 (decreed Oct. 18, A.D. 530) (Berolini Apud Weidmannos, 1888), 2:30.