042 HOMBELINE
Thank you, Bernard. I will cast myself at the feet of this good Mother, embracing her steadfastly, until she shows pity on me.

TRANSITION WITH MUSIC.

Robert Age: 20s

7 **INT. CLUNY MONASTERY, ABBOT PONTIUS' OFFICE - DAY**

ABBOT RUSTLES PAPERS OF A LETTER.

Side 2 START >>>

043 ROBERT
I just don't know what to do, Abbot Pontius. Uncle Bernard's letter...

044 ABBOT PONTIUS
You did the right thing in sharing this letter with me, your superior.

045 ROBERT
I feel like the letter has plunged my soul into darkness and confusion. I thought I'd made the right choice becoming a Cistercian, but then Cluny seemed right, and now, oh I don't know what's right.

046 ABBOT PONTIUS
Robert, do not let this letter rob you of your peace. Bernard scolds you saying: you've left the coarse habit for soft raiment, a fare of roots for delicacies, poverty for riches.

047 ROBERT
But our clothing here is more comfortable. And we do eat well. Are these things corrupting my prayer life, my soul?

048 ABBOT PONTIUS
An empty stomach has filled Bernard with envy and wrath. He criticizes our life at Cluny as lenient and luxurious, with comfortable furs, precious cloth, ample hoods. He even says that hard exercise will restore the flavor of food that idleness has taken away.

049 ROBERT
I enjoy being a Choir Monk.

050 ABBOT PONTIUS
Of course you do, Robert. Our Lord told us that we would know them by their fruits, and this letter, Robert, reveals that Clairvaux can only bear bitter fruit.

051 ROBERT
I enjoy being here at Cluny. But there is still a restlessness inside me.

052 ABBOT PONTIUS
Your Uncle Bernard has slandered us, slandered you, Robert.

053 ROBERT
Shall I write him back?

054 ABBOT PONTIUS
No, Robert. But the other monks will be made aware that our community's reputation has been defamed by the monks of Clairvaux.

KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

055 ABBOT PONTIUS (CONT'D)
Enter. Ah, Grand Prior, come take a seat. Robert, you can return to the choir now.

056 ROBERT
But, Abbot-

057 ABBOT PONTIUS
Fear not, Robert. I'll hold on to Bernard's letter here and all will be taken care of.

058 ROBERT
Thank you, Abbot.

<<< END

ROBERT EXITS.

059 GRAND PRIOR BERNARD
Abbot Pontius, I have an update-

060 ABBOT PONTIUS
Hold your report, Grand Prior. Gold has just fallen into our laps. I think we finally have a way to crush new vocations to Clairvaux.