

murder by Arduin's followers in 997, drawing down on him papal condemnation and the wrath of the emperor. With the backing of the lesser nobility of his March, and the support of the powerful clans of the Obertenghi and the Aleramici, he managed to hold out for years against the emperor, until in 1014 he withdrew to a monastery, where he soon died.

Ulderic Manfred had remained neutral during this conflict, but after Arduin's death he quickly occupied the March of Ivrea. Although he was soon forced to relinquish it, his bold action won him the loyalty of Arduin's former partisans, and helped to extend his family's influence in northwestern Italy. This influence was underpinned by the network of marriage alliances the Arduinids had been contracting over the past two generations with the kingdom's other great feudal lineages. Ulderic Manfred was descended on his mother's side from the marquises of Canossa, whose lands extended from the southern Lombard plain to Tus cany, and he was married to Bertha, from the House of the Obertenghi that held sway over Liguria and southern Piedmont. He ruled his March from the residence – described as a *castrum* or castle – that his grandfather Arduin had built at the Susa gate on the western side of Turin. His power was reinforced by his close relationship to the Church. He seems to have been a generous patron of religious establishments, founding or helping to endow abbeys in the lands he ruled, at Caramagna, at Susa, and at Turin, where shortly before his death he established a monastery dedicated to San Solutore, one of the Theban martyrs formerly revered as the city's patron saints. Besides being an outward sign of his piety, these ecclesiastical foundations also served to root his family's authority more firmly in the territories it ruled.

For most of Ulderic Manfred's reign the diocese of Turin was governed by the energetic Bishop Landulf, with whom he seems to have maintained a harmonious political relationship, although it was marked at times by tension. Landulf was German by birth and had served as chaplain to the Emperor Henry II, who placed him in command of the see of Turin because of his proven loyalty. Bishop Landulf was an efficient administrator; he founded the important abbey of Santa Maria at Cavour, rebuilt or established churches to serve the villages now springing up in the countryside, improved the administration of his diocese's lands, and fortified a ring of townships to protect them, at Chieri, Piobesi, Rivalba, Cavour and other key points. His vigorous leadership revived the spiritual and economic life of his diocese. The abbeys that he and Ulderic Manfred founded stimulated the agricultural and demographic revival that was taking off in the countryside; the monks