ACTA SANCTORVM MAII

collecta digesta illustrata

AGODEFRIDO HENSCHENIO

ET DANIELE PAPEBROCHIO

e Societate Iesu

TOMVS VI

quo continentur dies XXV, XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII.

operam et studium conferentibus

FRANCISCO BAERTIO

ET CONRADO IANNINGO

eiusdem Societatis.

ANTVERPIÆ APVD MICHAELEM CNOBARVM ANNO MDCLXXXVIII

Translation of the Title Page

Main Title Block

THE ACTS
OF THE SAINTS
FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

Collected, arranged, and illustrated
by Godfrey Henschen
and Daniel Papebroch
of the Society of Jesus.

Volume VI,
which contains the days 25, 26, 27, and 28,
with the cooperation and labor
of Francis Baert
and Conrad Janning,
of the same Society.

Publication line at bottom

Antwerp, at the house of Michael Knobbart,
in the year 1688.

Version 1.0

A few notes about this English translation. This article was initially published in 1678. It was written in Latin, and to the best of my knowledge, it has never been translated into French or English. At least, I can't find any versions of it online. I'm excited to share this English translation with other English speakers who are interested in Vence.

I do not speak, read, or write Latin. To create this English translation, I did the following: I found a scanned PDF of the original document online. I then used OCR (Optical Character Recognition) to convert the scanned images into actual text. I then went through the text line by line and word by word, comparing it with the original Latin, and fixed any errors. I used ChatGPT to translate the text from Latin to English, then read it again carefully and made any necessary corrections. There are bound to be errors here and there. I have followed the design and layout of the original article, copying the style and fonts as close as possible.

On the whole, I think this is a very good translation and quite readable. I hope you find it worthwhile. If you find any typos or mistakes, please email me so that I can correct them for future versions.

I am offering this as a free download, so you are welcome to share it with anyone who might be interested.

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November 2025

ON SAINT LAMBERT

BISHOP OF VENCE IN GAUL

G.H.

PRELIMINARY COMMENTARY.

About his veneration and Deeds, written by an eyewitness.

IN THE YEAR 1154

The body of Saint Lambert was in the cathedral church.

According to Ptolemy, the Nerusii are Alpine peoples whose city is Vintium, *called by others* Vencia, *and commonly known as* Vence. *It is an episcopal town in the Maritime Alps, located in the far, mountainous part of Provence. The diocese has only twenty-five parishes, three of which are enclosed within Piedmont and fall under the authority of the Duke of Savoy. In the cathedral there are preserved the sacred bodies of* Saints Véran and Lambert, *bishops of Vence. Of these,* Saint Véran *is honored on the* 10th *of September, and* Saint Lambert *on the* 26th *of May. Baronius writes the following in the Ecclesiastical Annals, at the year 1154, number 7:* "In this same year, on the sixth day before the Kalends of July, Saint Lambert, bishop of Vence in Gaul, left this life and entered heaven. Formerly a monk of Lérins, he was called by God to govern that Church. He shone with remarkable holiness, confirmed by many miracles. His admirable deeds were written down by one of his contemporaries, who himself had seen several of them." *This is what Baronius says. Because of his authority, Ferrarius in the General Catalogue and Saussaye in the Supplement to the German Martyrology also placed him on that same sixth day before the Kalends of July, that is, the 26th of June. But the Acts state, at number 6,* that he gave up his spirit and was buried on the seventh day before the Kalends of June, that is, the 26th of May. *This date seems to be the one that should replace the one given by Baronius. On that day he is celebrated with a solemn Office, not only in the diocese of Vence but also in that of Riez, which belongs to the same province, because he was born in Bauduen, a town of that diocese. For this reason, the readings printed in* 1625 *for the diocese of Riez include, at the end, the following:*

B

His feast day was assigned to June 26,

But it is better placed on May 26.

"In the year of Christ 1634, a significant portion of his relics was transferred from Vence to Bauduen in the presence of a large crowd of devoted people. There, even now, they are honored with respect by the people of the surrounding region, and God, supremely good and great, grants many blessings in that place to those who come to him through the merits of his Saint."

C

Ancient acts.

2. *The ancient original Acts are preserved in the Archives of the Cathedral Church of Vence. After being compared with the autograph, they were sent in the year* 1596 *to Vincent Barral of Salerne, a monk of Lérins, by Antoine Isnard, Vicar General of Vence; Dominique Laureau, Precentor of that Church; Maurice Vian, Beneficiary and Curate of the same Church; and Pierre de Guigonis, Notary. Barral published them in his Chronology of the Saints of the Island of Lérins, on page* 180 *and the following pages. From there we present them here.*

Saussaye, using these Acts, composed a long encomium which he published for the 26th *of May. On that same day he is also listed in the Benedictine Martyrologies of Wion, Ménard, Bucelin, and Ferrarius already mentioned above.*

In front of the tomb or altar of the Blessed Lambert the following verses were inscribed, written, I believe, at the very time of his death, certainly before the miracles recorded in the Acts occurred, the miracles that gave him his name and veneration as a Saint:

Inscription.

Let the one who does not know learn that here rests
This Bishop, named Lambert, full of great goodness.
He governed this See for forty years.
Pleasant things did not elevate him, nor did hardships bend him.
May the fountain of mercy pardon his sins,
and may the light of eternal rest shine upon him.

LIFE

Written by a contemporary & eyewitness.

Published from the Vence manuscripts of Vincent Barral.

All the works of the Creator are so immense and so unfathomable that they go beyond all human understanding, and for that reason they deserve our admiration. Yet some things that happen outside the usual course of nature amaze certain people even more. Although such events certainly deserve to be admired, described, and praised, the praise is not fitting when it comes from the mouth of a sinner. We must therefore speak of such things with fear and reverence—not because they are greater, but because they are unusual to speak about. We see, for example, sight restored to the blind, speech to the mute, hearing to the deaf, the use of their limbs returned to the paralyzed, and many other things that the divine goodness often works through his Saints.

I

The author, having invoked God,

D

Since everything that exists by God's will is meant to give praise and glory to the Almighty, and is supported by divine revelation, God must especially be blessed and praised in all his Saints. While they lived and persevered in the commandments of Christ, he clothed them with many virtues. After placing them amid the hardships and difficulties of the world, and then leading them along the path that all flesh must follow, he honored them with miracles. He made them heavenly while still on earth and granted them a share in his divinity and his glory.

F

When we recount their lives or their deeds, what else are we doing but placing a light upon a lampstand, showing the way to those who are traveling? Wanting to do this now, with the Lord's help, let us call upon the Author of truth, so that he may grant us both to speak what is true and to avoid anything contrary to truth. For it is no less dangerous to present what is false as true than to deny the truth itself.

writes what he himself saw.

What we know, we confirm by reason; what we believe, we accept by trusting in authority. For someone who reports only an opinion sometimes falls into error. Therefore, leaving aside what is doubtful and holding to what is certain, we recount the true deeds of the Blessed Lambert, Bishop of Vence, based on what we have learned from many faithful and honorable people, both lay and cleric, from what we have seen with our own eyes, and from what we frequently witness. With the Holy Spirit himself teaching us the truth, let us spread the sails of prayer.

Lambert, cut from his mother's womb,

2 The blessed Lambert was from Bauduen, a town in the diocese of Riez, and he came from a noble family. When his mother was carrying him in her womb and was close to giving birth, she died in severe labor pains, and the child was taken out by hand after her belly was opened. He was immediately baptized, and for a short time he was raised in his parents' home. Later he was dedicated to God and sent to the monastery of Lérins to be educated, where he was instructed both in letters and in monastic discipline.

There, as he grew up, he showed such a good natural character, such deep humility, and such a holy way of life that he

A *& raised at Lérins,* pleased both God and people, and was loved by everyone with great affection. He possessed such grace that, through the nobility of his mind and the integrity of his behavior, he surpassed every rank of worldly nobility. He also kept the virginity of both body and soul throughout his whole life, inspired by divine grace and with complete devotion. He was diligent in learning and eager to remember what he was taught, and in everything that concerned God he was entirely attentive. Yet the suffering his mother had faced terrified him deeply. He even called himself the murderer of his mother, because the beginning of his own birth had caused her death. Remembering this, he considered himself the least of all people, and he kept humility close to him as the guardian of every virtue. By constant vigils, fasting, and prayer, he longed for the promise from above.

He was therefore a very wise man who knew how to flee from the things that pass away and desired above all what truly makes a person blessed. By restraining what might give pleasure to the body, he practiced temperance. He was strong, because nothing could break him in adversity, nor could prosperity ever make him prideful. He was also just, because he never denied anyone what belonged to them, and he devoted himself to the service of the Creator with a steady and enduring will, as was fitting.

embraces virtue

B *having become Bishop of Vence,* **a** 3 As he strove tirelessly to rise from virtue to virtue, and as the fame of his holiness spread everywhere, he was, at the right moment and by divine providence, ordained bishop of Vence. He governed that Church faithfully for forty years and guided the people under his care no less by his example than by the preaching of his words. He did not forget humility; the more he was raised in dignity, the less he acted as if he held dominion over the clergy. Instead, he lived among them as one of their own.

he heals the sick Many people suffering from various illnesses, having heard of his great holiness, came to him asking for his help through prayer or through the laying on of his hands. They immediately regained their former health and returned home with joy. Through the goodness of God he also restored health to those suffering from epilepsy.

devoted to fasting For the thirty years before his death, he had the custom of reading the entire Psalter every day while standing, before taking any food. Although he was tall, handsome in appearance, and of a pleasing countenance, he subdued his body through constant fasting, prayer, and vigils, bringing it into the service of the spirit. With all the attention of his mind set on heaven, where his treasure was stored, he lived a heavenly life even on earth.

C Although he was held in high esteem among people because of his special dignity and his reputation for holiness, he remained humble and was always content with little. To wrongdoers he opposed the rule of justice. Some he corrected more by patient endurance than by punishment, and he was exceedingly gentle with those who were mild and devout.

three times water is changed to wine 4 One day, after the Lenten fast was completed, on Good Friday, when a drink was being carried to the clergy in the evening, he asked that water be brought to him. When he marked it with his usual blessing, it was immediately changed into wine. When he tasted it and realized it was wine, he threatened the servant, thinking the man had brought him wine on purpose. Again, at his command, water was brought, and when he blessed it once more, it immediately became wine.

After tasting and confirming this, he rebuked the servant, still not believing that what had been brought to him had truly been water. A third time he ordered that water be brought to him in a basin and poured into a cup in his sight. He blessed it again in the name of the Trinity, and it was instantly changed into wine.

When the blessed man understood what had happened and recognized it as a work of divine goodness, he drank from it with thanksgiving and then offered it to the clergy who were with him. Some of those who drank are still alive and give certain testimony to it.

ACCORDING TO A CONTEMPORARY AUTHOR

in his final illness, he was threatened with death; 5 As the time of his departure approached, his limbs were weakened by illness and he could not rise from his bed, but his mind and spirit did not turn away from prayer. Countless groups of men and women came to visit him from the nearby cities and villages, because he was greatly loved by everyone around him.

A woman who lived farther away, and who had been blind for five years, saw in a dream that she was standing before the holy man Lambert and that she received her sight through the touch of his hand. Remembering this vision, she went as quickly as she could to the place where he was. When she entered the room, she begged him earnestly to bless her. When he raised his hand and blessed her, she took his hand, kissed it, and touched her eyes with it, and immediately she received her sight. Those who were present were amazed, and she began to praise God for restoring her vision.

E 6 When the blessed man was close to death, he heard stonecutters in the church striking stone and preparing his sarcophagus. He asked what was being done, and those around him told him that they were preparing the tomb where his body would be placed. He asked them to help him and lead him to see it. When this was done, he blessed it and marked it with his raised hand. Then he returned to his bed and rested for a short time.

he marks the tomb

With Bishop Peter of *b* Antibes, of blessed memory, and Arnaud, Bishop of *c* Nice, standing by, along with a large number of clergy and people, he carefully arranged the matters that concerned him. When the bishop *d*, now in his final moments, was asked how he was, he is said to have replied, "I am well, and I believe I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living." These were his last words. Then, strengthened by his good works, he gave up his spirit and was buried with honor in a stone tomb by the bishops already mentioned, in that same church of Vence where he had been bishop by God's will. On the seventh day before the Kalends of June he was laid to rest, and many who come to his memory receive great benefits through divine mercy.

b **c** **d**

and he dies piously

the saint in heaven

F 7 On the seventh day, many clergy came from the nearby towns to celebrate the solemn Masses, and poor people came to receive alms. Among them was a man who had been blind for a long time. When he arrived, he prayed before the tomb of the Blessed man and immediately recovered his sight. Those who had known him as blind for many years were greatly astonished to see him now able to see, and they attributed this to divine goodness.

A woman who had a blind son, and who had heard many remarkable miracles of the Blessed Lambert, brought her son to his tomb. After keeping vigil and praying, the boy's eyes were immediately opened. Later, during the Easter celebration, when every Christian ought to strive for holiness and honor, and to keep their body in purity, a boy who was fighting and shouting with another suddenly fell into madness and was tormented by a demon. Those standing nearby seized him and tied him up. When he continued to suffer and grew worse, they decided to bring him to the tomb of the Blessed Lambert and leave him there. When this was done, he calmed down a little, and immediately, as if waking from a deep sleep, he was restored to his former health.

a possessed person

ACCORDING TO A CONTEMPORARY AUTHOR
a deaf man is healed,

A man named Fulco, a parishioner of the Church of Vence who had been deaf for a long time, came to the church and spent the whole night without sleep before the tomb of the most holy man, keeping his lamp with him. As dawn approached and he persisted in prayer, he obtained what he faithfully asked for. At that moment, something like a piece of dried skin burst open inside his ear with force, making a crackling sound as it opened, and he recovered the hearing he desired.

mentally incapacitated.

A certain young man was sick in body and had also turned his mind away from God, so that his friends doubted he would ever recover. They made a wax image and brought the sick man to the tomb of the Blessed Lambert, and they also brought the image. After spending the night in vigil, the sick man felt relief through divine goodness, and they returned home rejoicing at his recovery.

Various people are healed by the water gushing forth from the tomb.

8 When the time came again for the great crowd of clergy and people to gather for the annual commemoration, a remarkable and awe-inspiring sign appeared to all who were present. The tomb in which his body rested began to overflow with very clear water, as if it were being poured on from above by strong rain. A very renowned soldier was there who had long ago completely lost the sight of one eye. When that water touched his blind eye, he immediately regained the sight he had lacked. **B**

A boy named John, who had always been mute, was brought there, and in front of the tomb of the man of God he began both to speak and to bless God. A woman named Susanna collected some of that water which had flowed from the tomb in a glass vessel and took it with her. She gave it to drink to many people suffering from various illnesses, and they were immediately restored to their former health.

A woman who had long been mute and had a paralyzed arm and hand received both her speech and her health on that same day. Two women, one blind and the other deaf, rejoiced that within the span of a single day they had received the healing they desired. A blind man and a blind woman, coming from different places, prayed before his tomb and were given their sight on the same day through divine mercy.

Four women living in different places, after hearing reports of the many great miracles, came to the tomb of the most blessed man, asking for mercy with one heart. Two of them had suffered from blindness for a long time, the third had been mute for five years, and the fourth had been paralyzed for fifteen years. They prayed for three days, and on the third day they deserved to obtain the healing they had asked for. **D**

A woman suffering from sciatica, who had never been able to walk, was brought to the place where the memory of that Bishop was honored and was placed before his tomb. She continued praying until the next day. Toward morning, her bones cracked so loudly that those standing around her could hear it, and she stood up and was restored to health.

A woman who had a paralyzed son brought him to the memory of the most blessed Lambert. They spent the night in vigil before his tomb and did not sleep. Toward morning the boy regained the strength of his limbs and received the health he had longed for. He then returned home joyfully with his mother. *e* **e**

ANNOTATIONS

E

a. In the year of Christ 1114*, his predecessor Peter died, who had been honored in those islands in the year* 1094.

b. Antibes *is a city of Provence with an episcopal see, situated on the coast. The island of Lérins belonged to it, now called Saint-Honorat. But the episcopal seat was later transferred inland to Grasse, because Grasse was less exposed to maritime raiders.*

c. Nice*, or* Nicia*, a neighboring city, but now subject to Piedmont. We discussed it above on the* 23rd *of May, when Saint Siacrius, bishop of that city, is honored.*

d. I have corrected the confused sense here, because the text had read: "But to the bishop, acting in his final moments, having been asked…"

e. At the end these words were added, later inserted by someone: "This bishop governed the Church of Vence for forty years, as has been said, and in the year of the Incarnation of our Savior 1154, he returned his spirit to his Creator."