

San Gerlando was beatified 50 years after his death.

Thanks to Bishop Gentile (1154-1171) the body of the Saint has been transferred inside the cathedral and this constitutes the first official devotion to his relics. The first reconnaissance of the Saint's remains is documented by the bishop Rainaldo of Acquaviva (1240 - 1266). The relics are placed in a wooden ark painted by the painter-master Vincenzo. Inside this urn a precious document remains kept, in March 1264.

April 26 in the year 1376 the bishop Matteo de Fugardo (1362-1390) in the presence of jurors, judges, clergy and important people of the town, changes the place of the relics and puts them in a silver case built by the goldsmith Pietro di Bandino.

In the year 1598, Bishop Horozo de Covarruvias (1594-1606) renewed the urn and probably used the same material as the previous one and placed it at the top of the tribune. The translation is accompanied by a procession with the presence of all the dioceses, the nobility, the clergy and devout people.

Bishop Francesco Trahina (1627-1651) commissions a new urn and builds a new chapel with precious marbles and closed it by a door with three keys that keep the bishop, the Chapter and the Jurors of the town. The translation takes place on May 7, 1639.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century, Bishop Francesco Ramirez (1697-1715) is the last great Spanish bishop in Sicily. He gets particular awards for San Gerlando. In 1702 Clementi XI declared the altar of San Gerlando privileged.

On April 14, 1777, Bishop Antonio Lanza (1769 -1775) made another reconnaissance of the relics of San Gerlando. As a testimony to this, a parchment made by the Agrigento painter Michele Narbone with rich friezes and his bishop's coat of arms.

July 21, 1789 Bishop Antonino Cavaleri made translation, Bishop Baldassare Leone in 1819, Bishop Pietro Maria D'Agostino on November 11, 1824, Monsignor Ignazio Montemagro on April 18, 1838, Domenico M. Lo Jacono in 1846 and on December 28, 1872 Domenico Turano. During the restoration works in the Cathedral on the initiative of Monsignor Bartolomeo Lagumina (1899-1931, with the discovery of a clear mountain chapel, it was decided to place there the precious Baroque Ark of the Patron San Gerlando.

On May 1st 1970 the bishop Giuseppe Petralia (1963-1980) completes the last reconnaissance of the relics, of this remains a precious document, it is full of a great hope for the future of the diocese ... "so that the sunset of the second millennial flourished with the same vigor with which its glorious dawn flourished".



**THE SAINT'S BODY  
RELICS**

