

He was born between 1030 -1040 in Besancon, the ancient Vesontium, in France.

In his life there are two great periods: the first in his homeland where he achieved a reputation for his knowledge in theology and in scientific field.

In Besancon, he is an important member of the "chapter of San Paolo", travels a lot and his "fame" of holiness attracts the attention of the "Altavilla" engaged in the conquest of Southern Italy. His life receives a turning point, when he is called by the Normans Robero il Guiscardo and his brother Roger is involved in directing the first "Cantorum" school of theology in Mileto, Calabria. He first accepts the assignment but then he refuses it and comes back to his hometown. When Roger conquered Sicily in 1086 and freed Agrigento from Arab rule, as requested by Roger he became again bishop of Agrigento.

Gerlando arrives in Agrigento in 1088, with a reputation for holiness, but he is consecrated in Rome as bishop in 1089 by Pope Urban II. In Agrigento, he immediately activated and reorganized the diocese. Over the six years he grows his fame of bishop and dedicates the cathedral to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. James. In his biography it is known he dedicated himself to the poor, foreign and sick. Through his sermons, he succeeds in uniting and converting Jews and Saracens to Christianity.

He died on February 25, 1100 after 12 years of bishopric.

The beatification was made 50 years after his death and his body was transferred to the cathedral. Since then, his relics have been a destination for many devoted people.



## SAN GERLANDO, BISHOP OF AGRIGENTO

