

Note on Language and Abbreviations



Throughout our translations we have tried to indicate in the notes particularly difficult or debatable terms. In some cases, we have made consistent choices. Several terms are used to designate bishop, which we have reserved as a translation for *episcopus*. The term *antistes* has been translated throughout as primate and *praesul* as prelate. *Pontiff* has been left as is. *Pietas* is a complicated concept that should be understood, not in its modern sense but in its antique meaning, as a reciprocal relationship between unequals such as God and human, parent and child, ruler and subject, compounded of respect for the superior and care for the inferior. *Virtus* has many meanings. Where the text allows, we have translated it simply as virtue, but in other cases we have used power and even miracle.¹ Biblical quotes have been cited from the King James version to retain a traditional liturgical flavor, and there virtue appears as strength. The English language does not provide a workable alternative to *mother* to express the distinction our texts make between *genetrix*, the natural mother, and *mater*, the spiritual mother, or between *germana*, the physical sister, and *soror*, the fellow nun. *Sanctimonial* is the most common word for nun found in our texts. In the early lives of Monegund and Radegund, *monacha* is used, with a single appearance of *nonna* in Baudonivia's text. We have therefore used nun for *sanctimonial* and left the other usages intact. We have retained the slightly pretentious *optimates* for nobles where it appears, and *Quadragesima* for Lent. We have consistently translated *Sabbath* as Saturday.

1. Heffernan, *Sacred Biography*, 136–65, argues for translating *virtutes* as deeds and follows the thread of this definition to its classical and emerging Christian meanings. He sees classical virtue as correct social action and equates it to Jewish ideas of living correctly by the law prevalent in the Pharisaic movement. With the Christians, sensibility shifts toward a God-directed quality, divorced from social or public behavior. Thus it moved toward becoming a synonym for miracle.

Abbreviations in Footnotes and Bibliography

AS	<i>Acta Sanctorum</i>
ASOSB	<i>Acta Sanctorum Ordinis S. Benedicti</i>
c.	the numbered paragraphs in most standard Latin editions and in our translations.
CCSL	<i>Corpus Christianorum: Series Latina</i> <i>Lexicon = Lexicon Latinitatis Medii Aevi</i>
CIL	<i>Corpus Inscriptiones Latinorum</i>
CL	<i>Chronicorum Liber quartus cum continuationibus</i>
DACL	<i>Dictionnaire d'archéologie chrétienne et liturgie</i>
DHGE	<i>Dictionnaire d'histoire et géographie ecclésiastique</i>
HE	<i>History of the English Church and People</i> , by Bede
HF	<i>History of the Franks</i>
LHF	<i>Liber Historiae Francorum</i> , ed. and trans. Bachrach
MGH	<i>Monumenta Germaniae Historica</i> <i>AA = Auctores Antiquiores</i> <i>Diplomata = Diplomata Regum Francorum e Stirpe Merovingica</i> <i>Epistolae = Epistolae Aevi Merovingici Collectae</i> <i>SRM = Scriptores rerum merovingicarum</i> <i>SS = Scriptores</i>
PL	<i>Patrologia Cursus Completus, series Latina</i> , ed. J. P. Migne
PG	<i>Patrologia Cursus Completus, series Graecae</i> , ed. J. P. Migne