



**Office of Archives & Records Management**

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Jacksonville, FL 32258

(904) 262-3200, ext. 120

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Collection Title: Rt. Rev. Augustin Vérot, PSS  
Collection Number: AV-01

### Collection Summary

Date Span 1857-1888, bulk dates 1858-1876  
Size/Extent 1.25 cubic feet/7.26 linear feet/5 boxes and 6 oversized file folders (3, ½ letter DB; 1, ½ legal DB; 1, legal DB; 3, 12" x 17" folders; 3, 18" x 24" folders)  
Language(s) English, French, Italian, Latin  
Abstract Codes have been used on the Collection Inventory to better clarify and describe contents.  
Creator Rt. Rev. Augustin Vérot, PSS and Curia of Diocese of St. Augustine  
Repository Archives & Records Management Office, Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine  
Preferred Citation [Item Description], [Classification], AV-01, Archives & Records Management Office, Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine

### Administrative Information

Acquisition Information Diocese of St. Augustine, c.2009-2010  
2008-312-01; 2008-315-01; 2008-318-01; 2010-125-01; 2011-126-01; 2012-128-01  
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### Subject Headings

Authorities Dade County, FL  
Diocese of Savannah  
John & Murphy Co.  
Lowe & Thompson Law Offices (Brooklyn, NY)  
Miami, FL  
St. Augustine Church Wardens  
St. Johns County, FL  
Sisters of Mary Immaculate  
Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine  
Churches Cathedral Church of St. Augustine  
Immaculate Conception Parish, Jacksonville  
St. Augustine Church, St. Augustine  
St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, Key West, FL  
Clerics Clavreul, Rev. Henry P.  
De Fagieres, Rev. T.

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
|                | Dufau, Rev P.                  |
|                | La Rocque, Rev. P.             |
|                | Nunincy,                       |
|                | Persico, Rt. Rev. Ignatius     |
|                | Vérot (PSS), Rt. Rev. Augustin |
| Personal Names | Noda, Agatha                   |
|                | Noda, Joseph                   |
|                | Wagner, William                |
| Subjects       | Bifurcation                    |
|                | Diocesan Ordo                  |
|                | Pastoral Letter                |
|                | The St. Augustine Instructor   |
|                | Slavery                        |

## Historical Information

Though the Diocese of St. Augustine was established in 1870, Catholics inhabited the state of Florida from 1565. It was Spanish *conquistador*, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés who landed on Florida's Atlantic Coast September 8 (1565) and established St. Augustine, the longest continually occupied city in the country. The first parish church in the country was also established here. At that time, Spanish Florida extended to the entire peninsula, west to the Mississippi, and north to the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. Spain oversaw the peninsula for the majority of Florida's colonial history, with the exception of 20 years (1763 through 1783), when the First Treaty of Paris forced its transfer to England. Florida became a US territory in 1821 and was officially admitted as the 27<sup>th</sup> state of the Union in 1845.

Until erected as the Vicariate Apostolic of Florida (1857-01-09) and finally the Diocese of St. Augustine (1870-03-11), Florida was governed by six different Catholic Dioceses'. They were: the Diocese of Santiago de Cuba (1565 – 1787); the Diocese of Havana (1787-1793); the Diocese of Louisiana and the Floridas (1793-1825); the Vicariate of Alabama and the Floridas (1825-1829); the Diocese of Mobile (1829-1850); and the Diocese of Savannah (1850-1857).

At the time Florida was erected into a Vicariate Apostolic, the territory had been part of the Diocese of Savannah, a Diocese that encompassed the entire state of Georgia and all land east of the Apalachicola River, the former Spanish Province East Florida headquartered in St. Augustine. This included territory from the mountains in north Georgia to the southern Florida Keys. From the time of establishment, the Savannah Bishops petitioned both their Metropolitan in Baltimore and contacts in Europe to split this vast See.

When the Vicariate Apostolic of Florida was created in 1857, Savannah had been waiting three years for a new Bishop to be named. To solve this problem, officials named Rt. Rev. John Barry to the Diocese of Savannah, and bifurcated the Spanish

Province of East Florida from Savannah's territory, while allowing West Florida to continue as part of the Diocese of Mobile.

The first Bishop appointed to run the Apostolic Vicariate was Rt. Rev. Francis Patrick McFarland. This appointment did not take effect, and he was appointed the Bishop of Hartford (CT) the following year. The second appointment for Florida was Jean Marcel Pierre Auguste Vérot, a French Priest of Saint Sulpice. Signing his name Bishop Augustine Vérot, he accepted the appointment and began managing East Florida. Within a year of his installation, Bishop Vérot was overseeing 3 priests and had built 7 churches and 2 schools.

That same year, Bishop John Barry of Savannah died. Officials struggled to find a successor and the Civil War broke out, causing episcopal appointments to the south to be especially difficult. Feeling they had no other choice, officials named Bishop Augustin Vérot the third Bishop of Savannah, an addition to his appointment as Administrator of Florida's Apostolic Vicariate. After the war was settled, Bishop Vérot was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson. When communication with Europe opened up again, the bishop began petitioning officials to fill the See of Savannah, citing his inability to manage both territories due to failing health. His request was finally granted in 1870. A new Bishop was named to the See of Savannah, the Vicariate Apostolic of Florida was elevated to a Diocese, and Rt. Rev. Augustin Vérot was named St. Augustine's first Bishop. By the time of his death just six years later, the Diocese claimed 12 priests, 20 churches and chapels, 70 stations, 6 convents and a Catholic population of about 10,000.

## Biographical Information

Scholars have written many books on the life and events of Bishop Augustin Vérot. Below is a brief list of major life events that appear or are referenced in his Bishop's records.

### 1. Early Life (1805-1828)

- 1805-05-23, Born in Le Puy France

### 2. Society of Saint Sulpice & Early Priesthood (1828-1857)

- 1828-09-20, Ordained a priest in Paris, France by Archbishop Hyacinthe-Louise de Quélen (Paris) and subsequently joined the Society of Priests of St. Sulpice
- 1830-1853, Taught science, philosophy, and theology at St. Mary's College & Seminary in Baltimore (MD)
- 1853-1857, Appointed Pastor at Ellicot's Mills (MD)

### 3. Vicar to the Apostolic Vicariate of Florida (1857-1861)

- 1857-12-11, Appointed Titular Bishop of Danaba
- 1858-04-25, Ordained Titular Bishop of Danaba at Assumption Cathedral in Baltimore (MD) by Archbishop Francis Patrick Kenrick (principal, Baltimore), Bishop John McGill (Richmond, VA), and Bishop John Barry (Savannah)

- 1858-06-03, Installed as Vicar Apostolic of Florida
- Sought assistance from French priests and brought a group of eight to Florida including Rev. Henry P. Clavreul and Rev. P. Dufau

#### **4. Bishop of Savannah & Vicar of Apostolic Vicariate of Florida (1861-1870)**

- 1860-1865, During the Civil War, Vérot was named spiritual advisor to the Confederate Army in Georgia and was responsible for appointing military chaplains
- 1861, Bishop Vérot delivered a sermon in St. Augustine in strong support of the south, earning him the nickname the “Rebel Bishop.”
- 1861, Published a “Pastoral Tract” on Slavery seeking to moderate the worst aspects of the institution and offer “social, moral, and religious improvement” to enslaved persons
- 1861-07-23, Appointed third Bishop of Savannah (GA)
- 1864, Andersonville Prisoner of War Camp in rural Southwest Georgia was discovered by Rev. William Hamilton on the way to Americus, GA. Though conditions are inhumane, Bishop Vérot and his companion Rev. Henry P. Clavreul ministered to Union POWs for a couple weeks. This ministry was largely taken over by former POW Rev. Peter Whelan in June of that year.
- 1866, Bishop Vérot sails for his hometown of Le Puy, France. He returns with eight priests and convinces the Sisters of St. Joseph to begin a mission in St. Augustine.
- 1869, Verot wrote a Catechism of the Catholic Church (Published by John Murphy & Co in Baltimore), which was used as a model for the first Baltimore Catechism
- 1969, at the 10<sup>th</sup> Provincial Council of Baltimore, the Bishops unanimously voted to erect the new Diocese of Florida. The Holy See agreed on 2/25/1870.
- 1869-12-08 to 1870-10-20, Attended the First Vatican Council and is considered a Council Father. Sailed for Rome in October.

#### **5. Bishop of St. Augustine (1870-1876)**

- 1870-03-11, Appointed first Bishop of St. Augustine

#### **6. Death, 1876-06-10**

- Died around 2 pm in St. Augustine, Florida. His entry in the Death Register was written as follows:

*Saturday, the tenth day of June, Year of the Lord 1876, the Most Illustrious and Most Reverend don Agustin Verot rested in the Lord, First Bishop of this Church, of some 73 years of age, whose life was such that he could have repeated with the apostle: “Be my imitators, as I am of Christ.” On account of his most sudden death there was not time to administer upon him the last sacraments, whose body was interred in the crypt of a chapel inside the cemetery.*

*Rest in peace!*

*Let my soul die the death of the righteous and may my final end be like his.  
(Numbers 23:10)*

*[Signed and rubricated: Henry Clavreul Presbyter]*

- 1876-06-12, was buried in the Mortuary chapel vault at Tolomato Cemetery next to Cuban Priest, Felix Francisco Jose Maria de la Concepcion Varela. At the time, Fr. Varela's bones were placed on an embroidered pillowcase and set at the other end of the vault.
- 1876-06-13, New Diocesan Administrator Rev. Peter Dafau, sends a letter to all priests announcing Bishop Vérot's death.
- 1911, The joint tomb was opened and Fr. Felix Varela's bones were translated to Cuba.
- 1975-06-11, Bishop Vérot's tomb was opened in the presence of Most Rev. Paul Tanner. Bishop Vérot's remains were reburied in the middle of Tolomato cemetery in his own grave.

## Scope And Content

This collection spans the tenure of Rt. Rev. Augustin Vérot, PSS who administered the Apostolic Vicariate from 1858-1870, then served as first Diocesan Bishop from 1870-1876, as well as the records of the Diocesan Administrator, Rev. P. Dafau, who served the Diocese upon Bishop Vérot's death in 1876.

## Content List

Codes have been used to add further description to items. **Bold text** is used for the Classification/Series. *Italic text* is used for the title of the Box/Folder. **Text in red** indicates that the box/folder/item is restricted to the public. Text in smaller point is further description of content in the box/folder. Text **• behind a bullet point** indicates individual items stored in the folder. These descriptions are pulled from historic inventories. Not all folders have item level description.

|           |                 |   |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| Box TB-18 | Letter,<br>½ DB | <b>AV-01, Executive Files [E], 1857-1870</b><br><i>Apostolic Vicariate of Florida</i>   |
|           | FF1             | <b>Publications [A], 1861-1867</b><br><i>Vérot's Sermons and Pastoral Letters</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1861-01-04, Tract on Slavery &amp; Abolitionism</li> <li>• 1866-08-01, Pastoral Letter</li> <li>• 1867-02-15, Pastoral Letter</li> </ul> |
|           | FF2             | <b>Correspondence [E], 1857-1870</b><br><i>General [English]</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10/13/1865, copy of a letter of thanks written by Verot for \$1200 for the sufferers of Georgia and Florida with attached IOU that is original</li> </ul> |
|           | FF3             | <b>Correspondence [E], 1860 - Restricted</b><br><i>General [French]</i>   |
| Box TB-14 | Legal,<br>½ DB  | <b>AV-01, Executive Files [E], 1811, 1859-1869</b><br><i>Apostolic Vicariate of Florida</i>   |
|           | FF1             | <b>Entity Files [E], 1859</b>   |

|           |                 |  |
|-----------|-----------------|--|
|           |                 | <i>St. Augustine Church</i>  |
|           |                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1859, St. Augustine Church Wardens sign St. Augustine Church property over to Bishop A. Vérot</li> </ul>  |
| FF2       |                 | <b>Real Estate Files [E], 1811, 1864-1867</b>  |
|           |                 | <i>St. Johns County, Joseph &amp; Agatha Noda Estate</i>   |
|           |                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1864 – 1867, Account book concerning the Estate of Joseph Noda and Agatha for the years</li> </ul>  |
| FF3       |                 | <b>Real Estate Files [E], 1858-1869</b>  |
|           |                 | <i>St. Johns County Bequests</i>   |
| Box TB-15 | Letter,<br>½ DB | <b>AV-01, Executive Files [E], 1870-1877</b><br><i>Diocese of St. Augustine</i>  |
| FF1       |                 | <b>Correspondence [E], 1875-1876</b><br><i>General</i>   |
| FF2       |                 | <b>Correspondence [E], 1871-1872</b><br><i>Corresp. With Bishop Ignatius Persico (Savannah)</i>  |
|           |                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correspondence about bifurcation of property of Diocese of Savannah into Savannah and St. Augustine</li> </ul>  |
| FF3       |                 | <b>Correspondence [E], 1874-1876 - Restricted</b><br><i>General [French]</i>   |
|           |                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1876, Letters from Rev. P. La Rocque, Pastor St. Mary's Star of the Sea, Key West</li> </ul>  |
| FF4       |                 | <b>Correspondence [E], 1874-1877 - Restricted</b><br><i>Correspondence w/ T. De Fagieres [French]</i>  |
| FF5       |                 | <b>Correspondence [E], 1871-1875 – Restricted</b><br><i>General [Italian]</i>  |
| FF6       |                 | <b>Entity Files [E], 1870</b><br><i>Cathedral Church of St. Augustine, St. Augustine</i>   |
|           |                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel receipts from Rev. H. Clavreal</li> </ul>  |
| FF7       |                 | <b>Entity Files [E], 1876</b><br><i>Miami, FL Church</i>   |
| FF8       |                 | <b>Religious Institutes, Women [E], 1876</b><br><i>Sisters of Mary Immaculate</i><br><i>Key West, FL Contract</i>  |
| FF9       |                 | <b>Religious Institutes, Women [E], 1876-03-05 - 1876-03-07</b><br><i>Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine</i><br><i>Minutes &amp; Bylaws</i>  |
|           |                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1876-03-05 &amp; 1876-03-07, Signed document by Bishop Augustin Verot of two meetings of the Reverend Mothers of the Congregation of the Sisters St. Joseph.</li> </ul> |
| FF10      |                 | <b>Financial Files [F], 1872-1876</b><br><i>Receipts &amp; Reimbursements</i>  |
| FF11      |                 | <b>Marriage Dispensations [L], 1861-1875 - Restricted</b><br><i>Marriage Dispensations</i>   |
| FF12      |                 | <b>Real Estate Files [L], 1875</b><br><i>Dade County, FL</i>   |

- 1875, notarized agreement between Bishop Augustin Verot and William Wagner of Dade County. William Wagner gave Bishop Verot title to a lot of land by the Miami River on which a chapel was to be built.

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| Box TB-17 | Legal<br>DB     | <b>AV-01, Executive Files [E], 1860-1888</b><br><i>Diocese of St. Augustine</i>  |
|           | FF1             | <b>Publications [A], 1876</b><br><i>St. Augustine Instructor</i>   |
|           | FF2             | <b>Annual Reports [E], 1873-1876</b><br><i>Diocesan Reports [French]</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1861, Bishop A. Verot's report for the Propagation of the Faith on the mission of Florida</li> </ul>   |
|           | FF3             | <b>Correspondence [E], 1870-1893 - Restricted</b><br><i>Congregation Propaganda Fide [Latin/Italian]</i>   |
|           | FF4             | <b>Entity Files [E], 1869-1875</b><br><i>Immaculate Conception Parish, Jacksonville</i>  |
|           | FF5             | <b>Financial Files [F], 1860-1877</b><br><i>Diocesan Chart of Accounts</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1860 – 1877, Account book of monies to/from Diocese to churches of St. Augustine</li> </ul>  |
|           | FF6             | <b>Legal Files [L], 1873-1877</b><br><i>John &amp; Murphy Co. v. Bishop of St. Augustine (BOSA)</i><br>Law Offices of Lowe & Thompson (Brooklyn, NY) representing Bishop Vérot vs John & Murphy Co.  |
|           | FF7             | <b>Real Estate Files [L], 1870-1872</b><br><i>Correspondence re: St. Augustine/Savannah Diocesan Property Division (bifurcation)</i><br>Ordered by the Pope, delivered to the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, signed by the Rt. Rev. Augustin Vérot (St. Augustine) and Rt. Rev. Ignatius Persico (Savannah) in March, 1870. |
|           | FF8             | <b>Real Estate Files [L], 1870-1876</b><br><i>St. Johns County, FL Bequests</i>  |
|           | FF9             | <b>Episcopal Acts [E], 1870-1888</b><br><i>Register Verot's Travels in the Diocese</i><br>Handwritten Notes by Bishop Verot. Some were later published by Abbey Press (St. Leo, FL) in Brief History of the Churches of the Diocese of Saint Augustine Florida between 1923-1934   |
| Box TB-03 | Letter,<br>½ DB | <b>AV-01, Personal Papers [H], 1843-1845</b><br><i>Personal Papers</i>   |
|           | FF1             | <b>Personal Papers [H]</b><br>Flyleaves with Bishop Vérot's Signature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goodmans's <u>The Social History of Great Britain</u> Vol I (1845)</li> <li>White's <u>The United States Catholic Magazine</u> Vol II (1843)</li> </ul>   |
| TB-19     | Legal,<br>½ DB  | <b>AV-01, Executive Files [E], 1876-1877</b><br><i>Diocesan Administrator, Very Rev. P. Dufau</i>  |



|           |              |  |
|-----------|--------------|--|
|           | FF1          | <b>Entity Files [E]</b><br><i>Cathedral of St. Augustine, St. Augustine, 1876-1877</i>   |
|           | FF2          | <b>Entity Files [E]</b><br><i>St. Joseph Parish, Mandarin, 1876-1877</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receipts received by Sister Julia and the pastor</li> </ul>  |
|           | FF3          | <b>Entity Files [E]</b><br><i>St. Louis Parish, Tampa, 1876-1877</i>   |
|           | FF4          | <b>Entity Files [E]</b><br><i>St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish, Key West, 1876-1877</i>   |
|           | FF5          | <b>Entity Files [E]</b><br><i>Mater Dolorosa Parish, Tallahassee, 1876-1877</i>  |
|           | FF6          | <b>Entity Files [E]</b><br><i>St. Michael Parish, Fernandina, 1876-1877</i>  |
|           | FF7          | <b>Entity Files [E]</b><br><i>St. Monica Parish, Palatka, 1876-1877</i>  |
|           | FF8          | <b>Entity Files [E]</b><br><i>Sacred Heart Mission, Green Cove Springs, 1877</i>   |
|           | FF9          | <b>Financial Files [F]</b><br><i>Financial Receipts for Diocesan Administration, 1876-1877</i>   |
|           | FF10         | <b>Real Estate Files [L]</b><br><i>St. Johns County, FL, 1877</i>  |
|           | FF11         | <b>Real Estate Files [L]</b><br><i>Volusia County, FL, 1876-1877</i>   |
| Box TB-01 | Letter<br>DB | <b>Photographs [H]</b><br><i>From BOSA Collections</i>   |
|           | FF1          | <b>AV-01, Photographs [H]</b><br><i>Bishop Augustin Vérot's Official Portrait Picture, c.1858-1876</i>   |
|           | FF2          | <b>AV-01, Photographs [H]</b><br><i>Bishop Augustin Vérot Hand Colored Photo with print and negative, c.1858-1876</i>  |
| Box TB-02 | Oversized    | <b>Executive Files [E]</b><br><i>Oversized Records From Bishop's Collections</i>   |
|           | FF2          | <b>AV-01, Entity Files [E], 1875</b><br><i>Nuestra Señora de la Leche Chapel, St. Augustine</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1875-11, Account concerns the blessing of Our Lady of La Leche Chapel by Bishop Verot</li> </ul>  |
|           | FF3          | <b>AV-01, Religious Institutes, Women [E], 1876-03-05 - 1876-03-07</b><br><i>Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine</i><br><i>Minutes &amp; Bylaws</i><br>1876-03-05 & 1876-03-07, Signed document by Bishop Augustin Verot of two meetings of the Reverend Mothers of the Congregation of the Sisters St. Joseph. |
|           | FF4          | <b>AV-01, Real Estate Files [L], 1871</b><br><i>Bifurcation Corresp. w/ Rt Rev. Ignatius Persico (Savannah)</i>  |




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| Box TB-21 | Oversized,<br>Large | <b>Executive Files [E]</b><br><i>Large Oversized Records From Bishop's Collections</i>   |
|           | FF2                 | <b>AV-01, Correspondence [E], 1871-11-09</b><br><i>Corresp. With Bishop Ignatius Persico (Savannah)</i><br>Correspondence about bifurcation of property of Diocese of Savannah into Savannah and St. Augustine   |
|           | FF3                 | <b>AV-01, Entity Files [E], 1876</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Key West<br/>1876-03-29, Corresp. from Rev. P. La Rocque, Pastor St. Mary's Star of the Sea, Key West</li> <li>St. Monica Parish, Palatka<br/>1876, Building Expenses to Mr. D. A. Boyd, Dr.</li> </ul> |
|           | FF4                 | <b>AV-01, Synod Files [E], 1861</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1861-10-19, Acts of Synod of St. Augustine [Latin]</li> </ul>   |

## Processing Information

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Initial Process & Date:       | Sr. Cathy Bitzer, 2009-2012  |
| Arrangement/Processing Notes: | Received in multiple boxes from the Diocese of St. Augustine Administrative Center(s) with limited arrangement.  |
| Item Separated:               | unknown  |
| Reprocess & Date:             | KLockard, 10/6/2022  |
| Reprocess Notes:              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modern research, historical information, and photocopies of records with no locatable original were removed and stored with the DOSA, Subject File Collection</li> <li>Some series were rearranged to aid further access and description. Some series required further organization and description like Documents (130); Legal (120). Other series, like Seminarians (160), Diocesan Clergy (165), Religious Order Priests (170), and Religious Sisters (175) contained personnel files which were separated out from the collection. Some series contained misclassified records including Document (130) which included Sacramental Records (those were removed and stored with appropriate parish collections); and Ministries/Institutions (140) which included Bishop's correspondence with the Congregation of the Propagation of Faith (those were consolidated with other Bishop's correspondence).</li> <li>Correspondence was further grouped by language. It will be restricted to the general public until documents are reviewed and summarized by internal staff.</li> <li>Photos were separated out and stored together in a photo collection</li> <li>Paper photocopies of original records were separated out.</li> </ul> |



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