

an ancient and venerable tradition, which has been handed down from age to age until our own time, these holy relics, brought from Jerusalem into Provence, were entrusted by St. Lazarus, bishop of Marseilles, to St. Auspicius, first bishop of Apt, disciple of Pope St. Clement. To withdraw them from the fury of the Lombards, towards 374, these precious relics were concealed in a subterranean crypt of the cathedral until the eighth century, when it pleased Providence to miraculously reveal them.

It is related that Charlemagne, having gone to Apt during Easter-time in 792, after great victories gained over the Saracens in Provence, asked his chaplain, Archbishop Turpin, to consecrate solemnly the cathedral of the city which had been profaned by the infidels. During the ceremony, the subterranean place in which the relics of St. Anne reposed is miraculously revealed to a youth fourteen years old, named John, son of Baron de Caseneuve, who recovered the use of his sight and hearing of which he was deprived, manifesting the spot where the sacred deposit was hidden. It was found in a coffer of cypress-wood wrapped in a rich winding-sheet on which the following words were inscribed: *Hic est corpus Beatæ Annæ, matris Virginis Mariæ*; "Herein rests the body of Saint Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary."

Charlemagne had the exact relation of the prodigy drawn up and sent it to Pope Adrian I, who, in his answer to the monarch, recommended to preserve the holy relics with due veneration.

A like event could not pass by unperceived. The marvellous discovery of the relics of St Anne was the beginning of a series of wonders, which, even to our own day, has never been interrupted.

The church of Apt received numerous pilgrims flocking in from all parts, and delegations from cities afflicted by plagues that broke out at different periods.