

“Diocletian ordered him tied to a stake and pierced with arrows. Believing him to be dead, a holy woman named Irene had his body removed.” during the night to bury him; but he was found alive, and she nursed him in her house. Shortly after, Sebastian, who had recovered his health, stood in Diocletian's way and very freely reproached him for his impiety. At his sight, the emperor was struck with astonishment, for he believed him to be dead; the novelty of the prodigy and Sebastian's severe rebukes inflamed his anger, and he ordered him to be beaten with rods until he gave up his soul to God. His body was thrown into a cesspool; but Lucina, warned in a dream by Sebastian himself of his whereabouts and the place where he wished to be buried, buried him in the catacombs, and it was there that a famous church was built under the name of Saint Sebastian.”

Excerpt from the lessons of the Roman Breviary  
- Provided by Bernard Barrois