

may talk about the joys of Heavenly life." But Benedict replied: **"By no means can I stay out of my monastery!"**

At her brother's refusal, Scholastica prayed to God. Suddenly a violent storm arose, with torrents of rain, thunder and lightning. Benedict said: **"My sister, what have you done?"** And she replied: **"I begged you to stay and you would not listen. I begged God and He heard my prayer!"** So Benedict had to stay the night and talk to Scholastica about heavenly things.

Three days later, while in his cell, Benedict saw the soul of Scholastica leave her body, and in the form of a dove, ascend and enter Heaven. He had her body brought to his monastery and buried in his own tomb.

In 547, Benedict told some of his monks the day he would die. Time passed and six days before dying he asked that his grave be opened and immediately after he caught a fever and began to grow very weak. On the sixth day he asked some monks to carry him to the chapel so that he could receive the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ before dying. Then supported by the hands of his monks, he stood up, his hands lifted towards Heaven, and with a prayer on his lips he breathed forth his soul. The day was March 21, 547. He was buried beside his sister Scholastica and their bodies have remained there even to this day.



On the sixth day he asked some monks to carry him to the chapel so that he could receive the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ before dying. Then supported by the hands of his monks, he stood up, his hands lifted towards Heaven, and with a prayer on his lips he breathed forth his soul. The day was March 21, 547. He was buried beside his sister Scholastica and their bodies have remained there even to this day.

In 817, at the Council of Aachen, Germany, the Benedictine Rule was elevated as the code of laws for the monastic life. The rule became a source of blessing to the whole Catholic Church throughout the Middle Ages and up to the time of the suppression of monasteries. In the meantime it was faithfully followed in about 37,000 monasteries and became the powerful factor in laying the foundation and fostering civilization and morality, science and art, among the people of Europe.

The End



Easter issue

THE GUARDIAN OF CRUSADERS

Bulletin of the Eucharistic Crusade for Canada

April 2012 # 224

The Good Shepherd

Dear Crusaders,

The second Sunday after Easter is called Good Shepherd Sunday. Remember the Gospel of that day, in which Our Lord called Himself **The Good Shepherd**: "I am the Good Shepherd, and I know Mine, and Mine know Me."

Jesus knows us quite well: as the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, He made us and, moreover, he redeemed us. He knows all the needs of our body and of our souls. He knows our good qualities and our weaknesses. Because He is God, He knows everything.

That is why; Jesus wants to warn us about the dangers that are threatening us on the path of life, and lead us into heaven. But if it happens that a sheep departs from the right path, and falls into the snares of the devil, The Good Shepherd who will do everything to find and rescue that lost sheep. Once he finds her, he will take her on his shoulders, back to the flock.

This is the duty of the priests and of the bishops to watch over you, the members of Jesus' flock. This is a big duty, because right now many sheep are wandering away from the flock. Thus, we need more priests to offer their life to God, and become like Jesus good shepherds of souls. Where is Jesus going to find these good shepherds so needed to find and rescue the lost sheep, if not among the members of our little army of Crusaders of the Holy Eucharist?

So, dear Crusaders, if Jesus knocks at the door of your soul, and asks you to become like Him a good shepherd of souls, do not be deaf to His call, but be ready to answer with generosity. Remember the words of Jesus: "There will be a greater joy in heaven for one lost sheep that comes back to the flock, than for ninety-nine sheep that never departed from the flock."

Fr. Dominique Boulet

* **On April 1st, a Mass will be said for the intentions of the Eucharistic Crusade in Canada**

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Benedict laid the foundation for a larger monastery about the year 530. By now our saint was probably around fifty years old and many men flocked to him and became monks in his monastery. Since the sanctity of St. Benedict was widespread, laymen, priests, and bishops came to get words of wisdom and advice from him. Probably around this period, our saint wrote up rules for living a monastic life.

The Benedictine rule states that the monks cannot eat outside of the cloister. On one occasion two monks were sent abroad and had to stay longer than usual. So they ate at somebody's house and returned late to the monastery. When they arrived Benedict asked them: "**Where have you dined?**" They answered: "**Nowhere!**" Benedict said: "**Why do you lie?**" The holy abbot then told them where they had eaten and what they had eaten. Then the monks threw themselves at Benedict's feet and confessed their faults and he pardoned them.

Benedict's charity went far beyond the monastery. In the surrounding countryside our saint cured the sick, helped the suffering, gave money and food to the poor and raised people from the dead. When Campania was suffering from a great famine, he gave away all the food from the monastery except five loaves of bread. Benedict told the monks: "**You don't have**



enough food today, but tomorrow you will have too much food!"

Next morning somebody put two hundred sacks of meal at the monastery gate.

St. Scholastica was the twin sister of St. Benedict and she used to come once a year, from her monastery in Subiaco, to see him. They would meet in a little house not far from his monastery gate. She came one day and Benedict came with some of his monks and there they spent the whole day in the praise of God and talking of holy things. As night came, they ate their meal and continued talking. Then Scholastica begged Benedict: "**Please do not leave me this night, so that we**

and flew into the lake. When our saint was told what had happened he took the handle out of the man's hand and cast it into the lake. Suddenly the iron axe blade rose up from the bottom of the lake and attached itself to the handle. Then Benedict handed the axe to the man saying: ***"Behold! Work on and don't be unhappy."***

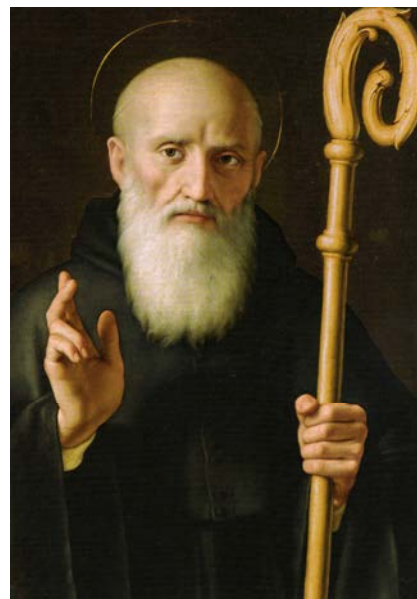
There was a heretical Arian priest named Florentius, who was envious of Benedict's holiness and tried to stop as many people as possible from going to see him. He sent our saint a poisoned loaf of bread. At dinnertime Benedict's pet crow came flying in from the forest to receive bread from his hand. But instead, he cast the poisoned loaf of bread before the crow saying: ***"In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, take this bread and cast it in some place where no man may find it."*** The crow was weary of doing so at first and had to be commanded again. Finally she took the loaf and flew away with it. Three hours later she returned to receive bread from Benedict's hand.

When Florentius saw that he could not succeed in killing Benedict, he sent seven evil women into the cloister garden where the holy abbot lived, to tempt the monks to sinful desires. Benedict decided immediately to go with a few monks to Monte Cassino to start another monastery. He knew this would stop Florentius from envying him. But God punished Florentius; for when the bad priest heard to his great joy that Benedict had left, God caused the room where Florentius stood to fall down and crush him to death.

Benedict and his monks arrived on Monte Cassino and found an old temple where people worshipped Apollo. They broke down the idol Apollo, overthrew the altar and burnt the groves that had been used for sacrifices. In the temple he built a chapel to St. Martin and another chapel to St. John. By continuous preaching he converted many people in the surrounding areas.

At one time the monks were building a wall, higher. The devil appeared telling Benedict he was going to visit the monks at work. Our saint sent a messenger to tell the monks that the devil was coming to bother them. But as soon as the monks were told the devil pushed the stone wall over and killed a young monk. When the monks told Benedict, the boy was carried to his cell. The holy abbot prayed and the boy was restored to life.

ST. BENEDICT—POWERFUL AGAINST the DEVIL



As a boy St. Benedict was pious, honest, and holy. Even in his youth he had the mind of an older man and good morals beyond his age. He didn't like the amusements of the world and always kept his heart pure and clean.

When Benedict was old enough, his parents put him in some Roman schools. But when he saw that many of his friends became very sinful, putting themselves on the road to Hell, he fled from Rome and its evil ways. At fourteen, Benedict fled the world to seek salvation and perfection in a place where he could be alone with God: to pray, meditate and do penance.

Benedict left with his nurse, who loved him dearly, and they went to a place called Affile. There he remained for some time in the church while his nurse borrowed a neighbour's sieve to clean wheat. Later the nurse cried about the sieve being broken. So Benedict had pity on her, took the sieve and with tears he begged to God to fix it. After praying the sieve was in one piece. But this miracle only caused people to talk about Benedict, who wanted no praise. So the boy fled to a remote desert in Subiaco.

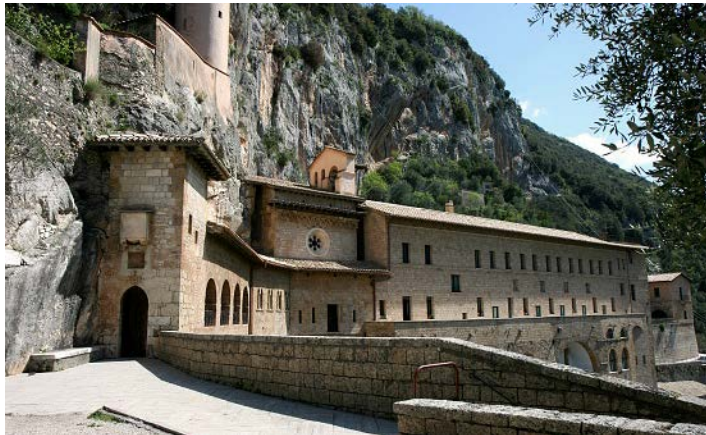
As Benedict was traveling to Subiaco, he met a monk called Romanus—a saint. He asked Benedict where he was going and then gave him a habit and helped him in all things. Benedict lived in a cave in Subiaco and Romanus would bring him a loaf of bread every now and then. Romanus let the bread down on a rope with a bell attached so that our saint would know when the bread was there. Romanus continued to help Benedict, but one day he died.

On Easter Day, a priest living afar off was just about to enjoy his Easter meal. Suddenly Jesus appeared to him and told him about poor Benedict, in Subiaco, who was starving. The priest packed up his dinner, climbed over rocks and

valleys, and found Benedict in a cave. Then he shared his dinner with the young man and they both rejoiced.

Around this time, shepherds saw Benedict clothed in animal skins and thought that he was a wild animal. But they soon found that he was a man of God and many of them converted to a life of virtue. Benedict became famous in that country and many people brought him food. And in exchange for food our saint told them about the goodness of God.

One day the devil came and tempted Benedict to sins of impurity. The devil presented to the young man's mind a beautiful woman that caused him to be so terribly tempted that he almost committed a sin. But by God's good grace Benedict threw off his clothes and cast himself naked, into a bush of thorns and stinging nettles. He rolled in the thorns and nettles until his body was torn and bleeding. Then he rose up, dressed again, and ever after that time, he was never tempted with impure thoughts again.



Not far off was a monastery whose abbot had died. So the monks asked Benedict if he could be their abbot. Benedict refused them for a long time, warning them that his way of life and their way of life would not agree. But the monks kept pestering him and finally he agreed to be their abbot. However, when our saint told the monks to follow stricter rules, they became very angry and decided to poison him. Poison was put in Benedict's wine and brought to his table. Benedict blessed the wine: the glass shattered and the wine spilled out. Then he said: ***"May God forgive you for trying to poison me. Did I not tell you that my manner of life and yours would not agree? Go and find a Superior to your liking, for I can no longer stay here."*** Then Benedict returned to the solitude he loved so well.

(Continued on page 9)

(...Continued from Page 4)

Benedict lived for many years in the desert of Subiaco practising great virtues and performing miracles. There were many good monks living near him so he built twelve monasteries and in each monastery he put a Superior and twelve monks. At the same time many people from Rome begged Benedict: ***"We want you to bring up our boys in the service of Almighty God."*** Benedict agreed and two of the first boys were Maur and Placid.

One day, Placid went to the lake to get some water. As he filled up the bucket with water he suddenly fell into the lake and was carried away by the current. This accident was revealed to Benedict, who called Br. Maur: ***"Run, Brother Maur, for Placid who went to get water has fallen into the lake, and the current has carried him a great way."*** Maur got Benedict's blessing, ran to the lake and ran on top of the water to where Placid was. He took Placid by the hair and returned quickly back to the land. Later, Maur asked Benedict how he was able to walk on water. Benedict told Maur that it was because of his prompt obedience. Maur said it was because of the Abbot's command. But Placid said he saw the Abbot's garments over his head, when he was drawn out of the water.



In one of the twelve monasteries there was a monk who could not stay at prayers. When the monks knelt to pray he would leave the chapel and wander around thinking about worldly things. His Superior scolded him and so did Benedict, but the monk always returned to his wanderings. Our saint went to see the monk again and noticed that there was a little devil that pulled his habit. The next day Benedict struck the wandering monk with a rod and from that time on he was free from the temptations of the devil.

One day a man joined Benedict's monastery and took an axe to chop out brambles in a place for a garden. The place was near a lake and while he was chopping the axe blade came off

S	T	S	C	H	O	L	A	S	T	I	C	A	M
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ST SCHOLASTICA
 MONTE CASSINO
 ST BENEDICT
 MONASTERY
 MIRACLES
 ROMANUS
 PLACIDUS
 BLESSING
 JACQUES
 SUBIACO

MAURUS
 THORNS
 POISON
 SINNER
 MONKS
 PRIEST
 BREAD
 CROW
 DEVIL
 SIEVE

OATH
 LOVE
 LAKE
 CAVE
 PRAY
 HELL
 FLED
 GOD
 GUN
 AXE

One of the cruelest people of the French Revolution, (let's call him Jacques), took an oath never to call a priest into his house. And if any priest dared to put a foot into his house, the priest would be killed before he left the house.

One day, Jacques became very sick. There was a priest who knew Jacques and knew that he hated priests. When the priest heard of Jacques's sickness he hurried to the bedside of the sick man.

As soon as Jacques saw the priest, he became terribly angry, shouting: ***"What? A priest is here? Give me a gun!"***

"My brother," said the priest, mildly, ***"why do you want a gun? I oppose you with stronger weapons—my love and my constancy."***

When Jacques was not given a gun, he shook his fist at the priest's face and cried out: ***"Let me tell you that with this hand I have strangled to death, twelve priests!"***

But the priest answered with gentle love: ***"My brother, you are wrong; it is one less; the twelfth one did not die. God kept him alive in order to save you from Hell. The twelfth one is myself!"***

While saying these words, the priest had opened his garments at his throat and chest, and he told Jacques: ***"Here, look at the scars from your hand!"***

At that moment, Jacques was overcome with sorrow. He broke down and confessed his sins to the priest and died a repentant sinner in the arms of the priest.

This is a wonderful story of the mercy of God and the mercy of man. For some reason, God wished to save Jacques, even though he had killed eleven priests. Maybe, before Jacques had become so wicked, he had done some very good things in his life. And then perhaps things turned sour for poor Jacques—maybe he lost his family during the French Revolution and this had caused him to become a wicked man. We don't know for sure, but one thing we do know is that God had mercy on poor Jacques.

And we can also see that the priest showed great mercy and did not show any hatred toward Jacques, but called him: ***"My brother!"***—Even after this priest had almost been killed by Jacques.

So you see, we must always show great mercy to those who hurt us, and we must forgive them and even help them to come back to God. God will bless you greatly if you do this during your life.

INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF April 2012

Daily offering

(To be recited every morning when you wake up)



O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer Thee all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions



of Thy Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, and in reparation for my sins. I offer them particularly **for the pope and the bishops.**

January 2012 Treasure Sheets

	Daily Off.	Mass	Sacr. Com.	Spir. Com.	Sacrif.	Dec. Ros.	Visit Bl. S.	15 Min.	Good Example	Quantity
NB & NS	53	4	4	46	68	194	0	4	46	2
QC										
ON	1121	495	434	704	1639	4641	465	314	910	39
MB										
SK	186	27	26	184	847	1067	29	57	777	6
AB	126	78	70	118	305	598	80	113	173	5
BC	417	102	66	108	278	1205	67	2	122	16
Total	1850	702	596	1114	3069	7511	641	172	1982	66

TREASURE CHART FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2012

Day	Daily Off.	Mass	Sacr. Com.	Spir. Com.	Sacr if.	Decades of Rosary	Visits Bl. Sacr.	15 Minutes Silence	Good Example
1									
2									
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29									
30									
Total									

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April 2012

Total of the Month										
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To be sent to the secretariat of the Eucharistic Crusade, 1395 Rue Notre-Dame, St-Césaire, QC, J0L 1T0, or e-mail:

EucharisticCrusadeCDN@gmail.com