

The Sons and Daughters of Saint Benedict

POSTERITY HAD A RIGHT to know the life and virtues of a man, whose salutary influence upon the Church and society has been so observable during the ages of the Christian era. To describe the influence exercised by the spirit of St. Benedict, we should have to transcribe the annals of all the nations of the western Church, from the seventh century down to our own times. Benedict is the father of Europe. By his Benedictines, numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sands of the seashore, he rescued the last remnants of Roman vigor from the total annihilation threatened by the invasion of barbarians; he presided over the establishment of the public and private laws of those nations, which grew out of the ruins of the Roman empire; he carried the Gospel and civilization into England, Germany, and the northern countries, including Slavonia; he taught agriculture; he put an end to slavery; and to conclude, he saved the precious deposit of the arts and sciences from the tempest which would have swept them from the world, and would have left mankind a prey to a gloomy and fatal ignorance.

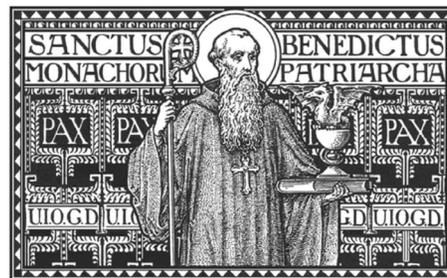
And Benedict did all this by that little book which we call his Rule. This admirable code of Christian perfection and prudence disciplined the countless legions of religious, by whom the holy patriarch achieved all these prodigies. During the ages which preceded the promulgation of this rule, so wonderful in its simple eloquence, the monastic life in the western Church had produced some few saintly men; but there was nothing to justify the hope that this kind of life would become, even more than it had been in the east, the principal means of the Christian regeneration and civilization of so many

nations. Once this rule was written, all others gradually give place to it, as the stars are eclipsed when the sun has risen. The west was overspread with monasteries; and from these monasteries flowed upon Europe all those blessings, which have made it the privileged quarter of the globe.

An incredible number of saints, both men and women, who look up to Benedict as their father, purify and sanctify the world, which had not yet emerged from the state of semi-barbarism. A long series of Popes who had once been novices in the Benedictine cloister, preside over the destinies of this new world, and form for it a new legislation which, being based exclusively on the moral law, is to avert the threatening prevalence of brutal despotism. Bishops innumerable, trained in the same school of Benedict, consolidate this moral legislation in the provinces and cities over which they are appointed. The apostles of twenty barbarous nations confront their fierce and savage tribes, and, with the Gospel in one hand and the rule of their holy father in the other, lead them into the fold of Christ. For many centuries, the learned men, the doctors of the Church, and the instructors of youth, belong, almost exclusively, to the Order of the great patriarch, who, by the labors of his children, pours forth on the people the purest beauty of light and truth.

This choir of heroes in every virtue, of Popes, of bishops, of apostles, of holy doctors, proclaiming themselves as his disciples, and joining with the universal Church in glorifying that God whose holiness and power shine forth so brightly in the life and actions of Benedict—what a corona, what an aureola of glory for one saint to have!

Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger O.S.B. (1805-1875).



Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

NOVEMBER 13

Feast of All Holy
Monks of the Order
of Saint Benedict

(in Benedictine communities)

Introit (Sedulius)

GAUDEÁMUS OMNES in Dómino, diem festum celebrántes sub honóre sancti monachórum: de quorum solemnitate gaudent Ángeli, et colláudant Fílium Dei. *Ps. 32:7.* Exsultáte, justí, in Dómino: rectos decet collaudátio. *V.* Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spíritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sácula sæculórum. Amen. — Guedeámus omnes in Dómino ...

LET US all rejoice in the Lord, celebrating a festival day in honor of the holy Monks, on whose solemnity the Angels rejoice and give praise to the Son of God. *Psalm.* Exult in the Lord, O ye just: praise becometh the upright. *V.* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. — Let us all rejoice in the Lord ...

Collect

CONCÉDE, quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut ad meliorem vitam sanctórum Monachórum exéempla nos próvocent quátenus, quorum solémmnia ágimus, étiam actus imitémur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum Fílium tuum: Qui tecum vivit et regnat ...

GRANT, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that the example of the holy Monks may stir us to a better life: that so we may imitate the actions of those whose solemnity we celebrate. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son: Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost ...

Epistle (II Corinthians 6:4–10)

FRATRES: Exhibeámus nosmetipsos sicut Dei ministros, in multa patiéntia, in tribulatió nibus, in necessitatibus, in angústiiis, in plagis, in carcéribus, in sediti ó nibus, in labóribus, in vigiliis, in jejúniiis, in castitate, in sciéntia, in longanimitate, in suavitate, in Spíritu Sancto, in caritate non ficta, in verbo veritatis,

BRETHREN: In all things let us exhibit ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in tribulation, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in prisons, in seditions, in labors, in watchings, in fastings, in chastity, in knowledge, in long-suffering, in sweetness, in the Holy Ghost, in charity unfeigned, in the word of truth, in

the power of God: by the armor of justice on the right hand and on the left: by honor and dishonor: by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true: as unknown, and yet known: as dying, and behold we live: as chastised, and not killed: as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing: as needy, yet enriching many: as having nothing, and possessing all things.

Gradual (Psalm 33:10)

FEAR THE LORD, all ye His saints: for there is no want to them that fear Him. (*Ibid.* 11.) But they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good. **Alleluia, alleluia.** (*Mt.* 11:28.) Come to me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. Alleluia.

Gospel (Matthew 19:27–29)

AT THAT TIME, Peter said to Jesus: Behold we have left all things and have followed Thee: what therefore shall we have? And Jesus said to them: Amen I say to you, that you, who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit on the seat of His majesty, you also shall sit on twelve seats, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My Name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold and shall possess life everlasting. — *Creed.*

Offertory (Wisdom 3:1,2,3)

THE SOULS of the just are in the hand of God, and the torment of death shall not touch them: in the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, but they are in peace, alleluia.

in virtúte Dei, per arma justítiae a dextris et a sinístris: per glóriam et ignobilitátem: per infámiam et bonam famam: ut seductóres et veráces: sicut qui ignóti et cónniti: quasi moriéntes et ecce, vívimus: ut castigáti et non mortificáti: quasi tristes, semper autem gaudéntes: sicut egén-tes, multos autem locuple- tántes: tamquam nihil habén-tes et ómnia possidéntes.

TIMÉTE DÓMINUM, omnes sancti ejus: quóniam nihil deest timéntibus eum. *V.* Inquiréntes autem Dóminum, non deficient omni bono. **Alleluia, alleluia.** *V.* Veníte ad me, omnes qui laborátis et oneráti estis: et ego reficiam vos. Alleluia.

IN ILLO TÉMPORE: Dixit Petrus ad Jesum: Ecce nos relínquimus ómnia, et secúti sumus te: quid ergo erit nobis? Jesus autem dixit illis: Amen dico vobis, quod vos, qui secúti estis me, in regeneratióne, cum séderit Filius hóminis in sede majestátis suae, sedébitis et vos super sedes duódecim, judicántes duódecim tribus Israél. Et omnis, qui reliquerit domum, vel fratres, aut soróres, aut patrem, aut matrem, aut uxórem, aut filios, aut agros, propter nomen meum, céntuplum accípiet, et vitam aetérnam possidébit. — *Credo.*

JUSTÓRUM ánimae in manu Dei sunt, et non tanget illos tormentum malitiae: visi sunt óculis insipiéntium mori: illi autem sunt in pace, alleluia.

Secret

THROUGH the merits of Thy holy Monks, graciously receive, O Lord, the host which we dedicate to Thee: and grant that by it we may enjoy Thy perpetual help. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

Preface of St. Benedict

IT IS TRULY meet and Just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father Almighty, everlasting God. Who didst appoint that most blessed Confessor Benedict to be a heaven-taught master and leader unto a numberless multitude of children. Whom also, filled with the spirit of all the just and rapt out of himself, Thou didst illumine with the splendour of Thy light, so that, in the very light of heavenly vision, his soul being set free from all hindrance might learn how truly little are all things below: through Christ our Lord. Wherefore with freest joys doth the whole choir of monks throughout the world exult. And also the heavenly Hosts and the angelic Powers sing together the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:— *Sanctus.*

Communion (Matthew 5:8–10)

BLESSED are the clean of heart, for they shall see God: blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called the children of God: blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Postcommunion

SATIATED with the salutary mysteries, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that we may be helped by the prayers of the holy Monks, whose solemnity we celebrate. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

HÓSTIAS tibi, Dómine, sanctorum Monachorum tuorum dicatas méritis benignus assumes et ad perpétuum nobis tribue provenire subsidium. Per Dóminum nostrum ...

VERE DIGNUM et justum est, áequum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et úbique grátias ágere, Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, aetérne Deus. Qui beatissimum confessórem tuum Benedictum, ducem et magístrum cœlitus edóctum, innumerábili multítudini filiórum statuísti. Quem et ómnium justórum spírítu replétum, et extra se raptum, lúminis tui splendóre collustrásti. Ut in ipsa luce visiónis íntimæ mentis laxáto sinu, quam angústa essent ómnia inferióra deprehénderet. Per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Quaprópter profúsus gáudiis totus in orbe terrárum monachórum cœtus exsultat. Sed et supérnæ virtútes atque angélicae potestátes hymnum glóriæ tuæ cóncinunt sine fine dicéntes: — *Sanctus.*

BEÁTI mundo corde, quóniam ipsi Deum vidébunt: beáti pacífici, quóniam filii Dei vocabúntur: beáti qui persecutiónem patiúntur propter justítiam, quóniam ipsórum est regnum cælórum.

QUÆSUMUS, Dómine, salutáribus repléti mystériis: ut sanctorum tuorum Monachorum, quorum solémnia celebrámus, oratióibus adjuvémur. Per Dóminum nostrum ...