

ST. BENEDICT'S RECTORY
2612 WILKENS AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MD.

June 22/35

My dear Mr. Pitassi:

Enclosed find description
of medallions of which I have taken
a copy. Window is first on Joseph
side facing school.

Father Michael had window measured
& is having measurements sent you.

Sincerely
Father Aloysius, O.S.B.

ST. BENEDICT'S CHURCH,
2412 WILKENS AVE.
Baltimore, Md.

BALTIMORE
JUN 22
1130 PM
MD. 1935



Mr. W. L. Pitassi

5345 Penn Ave.

Pittsburgh,

List of subjects for Aisle Windows in St. Benedict's Church, Baltimore, Md.

1. St. Benedict leaves his fathers house accompanied by his nurse.
2. Miracle of the Wheat Sifter.
3. St. Benedict meets Romanus and receives the monk's habit.
4. St. Benedict lives as a hermit in a cave.
5. Temptation of St. Benedict.
6. A priest brings him food on Easter Sunday.
7. The Monks of Vicovaro prevail upon St. Benedict to become their Abbot.
8. The poisoned Cup.
9. Maurus saves Placidus from drowning.
10. St. Benedict draws Water from a Rock.
11. The poisoned Loaf
- 12. He establishes schools for children.
13. Fulgentius' diabolical Plan.
14. St Benedict leaves Subiaco for Monte Cassino.
15. St. Benedict destroys the Idol of Apollo.
16. The Erection of the Monastery. The immovable Stone.
17. A Novice Raised to Life.
18. He writes the Holy Rule.
19. Galla, the Goth.
20. Totila's Deception discovered.
21. Totila's Visit to St. Benedict.
22. St. Benedict sends Maurus to France.
23. *Last visit to Scholastica*
Death of St. Scholastica.
24. The translation of the Body of St. Scholastica to Monte Cassino.
25. ~~Obverse of~~ Benedictine Medal.
26. St. Benedict has his grave opened.
27. Death of St. Benedict.

A.D. 493-494

St. Benedict's Flight from Rome.

"Lo, I have gone far off flying away-----for I have seen iniquity and contradiction in the city." Ps. LIV.8,10.

We are not certain when St. Benedict left Rome, but all Historians agree that he was quite young and had as yet not absolved all the prescribed studies. Shocked at the licentiousness of many young men that frequented the schools of Rome, he decided to say eternal farewell to the world, in order not to be entangled in its snares. Accompanied by his nurse, who had won his confidence, he turned his back on Rome, leaving behind his home and kindred and all those prospects and pleasures which had tried in vain to captivate his pure young heart.

1A

A.D.494 The

The first Miracle

During his stay at Enfide, Cyrilla took care of the house and performed the ordinary household duties. It happened one day that she borrowed a sieve from one of her neighbors; this she had incautionally left on a table, and by some accident it fell and was broken in half. When St. Benedict returned, he found her crying bitterly. The tenderhearted boy, moved with compassion, took the two pieces of the broken sieve, knelt down and began to pray. When he arose the sieve was repaired in such a way that no trace of the fracture was to be found, and he smilingly restored it to Cyrilla sound and whole. This event soon came to the knowledge of the people of Enfide, and caused such admiration that the inhabitants hung up the sieve at the entrance of the church, so that posterity might know what a high degree of grace God had given the young Benedict, even evn at the very beginning of his religious life.

A.D. 494

No 3

St. Benedict meets Romanus.

St. Benedict to escape the danger of flattery fled into the wilderness of Subiaco. As he was thus making his way, he saw a monk coming towards him. His name was Romanus. The saint confided to him the secrets of his soul and asked him to show him a place where he could live hidden from the world. Romanus clothed him with the habit of religion which the monks of those days were accustomed to wear. His worldly garments the Saint placed at the foot of a column which is now enclosed by a chapel called Santa Crocella.

The Young Hermit.

"Whoever seeks peace for his soul, let him seek it in places where there are caverns, in places of solitude; for there God speaks to the heart of men."

From the inscription at the entrance to the Sacro Specu.

For three years St. Benedict lived in solitude, in a cave on Monte Carpineto. Romanus was the only one who knew his hiding place; and who provided the holy youth with bread. The monastery in which Romanus lived was so situated that he could not reach the cave except by a long and circuitous route though the actual distance was not great. To avoid this journey he bethought himself of letting down the food over the edge of the rock by means of a basket attached to a rope, a little bell being fastened to the rope to serve as a signal. One day it happened that the old enemy, envying the charity of the one and the refectioⁿ of the other, seeing a loaf let down, threw a stone and broke the bell, but for all that Romanus did not give up to serve him by all possible means.

Temptations of St. Benedict.

Upon a certain day ST. Benedict being alone, the tempter was at hand for a little black bird began to fly about his face, so near that the holy man if he would, might have taken it with his hand, but after he had blessed himself with the sign of the Cross the bird flew away, and forthwith the holy man was assaulted with such a terrible temptation of the flesh as he had never felt like in all his life. A certain woman there was which sometime he had seen, the memory of whom the wicked spirit put into his mind, and by the representation of her did mightily inflame with concupiscence the soul of God's servant, which did so increase that, almost overcome with pleasure, he was of a mind to forsake the wilderness. But suddenly assisted by God's grace he came to himself, and seeing many thick briars and nettlebushes nearby, he cast off his garment and threw himself in the midst of them, and there wallowed so long that when he rose up all his flesh was pityfully torn, and so, by the wound of his body, he cured those of his soul, in that he turned pleasure into pain, and by the outward burning of extreme smart quenched that fire which, being nourished before with the fuel of carnal cogitations, did inwardly burn in his soul and by this mean he overcame the sin, because he made a change of the fire/ From this time forward he found all temptation of pleasure so subdued that he never felt any such thing.

A. D. 497

6

A priest brings food to St. Benedict on Easter Sunday.

IN 497 a certain pious priest in that country, while preparing a dinner for himself on Easter-Sunday, heard a voice which said: "You are preparing for yourself a banquet, while my servant Benedict at Subiaco is distressed with hunger." The priest immediately set out in quest of the hermit and with much difficulty found him. After they had said the prayers together, they discoursed for sometime on God and heavenly things. Then they partook of the meal and after they had dined, the priest returned home.

A.D. 510

7

The Monks of Vicovaro prevail upon St. Benedict to become their Abbot.

"Your manners and mine do not agree."

The monks of Vicovaro, on the death of their abbot, unanimously elected St. Benedict in his place. They sent a delegation to him in his cave and used every argument to induce him to accept the dignity. The Saint refused to consider their proposal telling them that their manners and his did not agree. They, however, renewed their entreaties, assuring him that it would be for the glory of God and the good of their souls. These last reasons at last prevailed and the Saint reluctantly yielded. Quitting his retreat the holy man set out for his new abode, heavy at heart on account of the burden he had taken upon himself.

A.D. 510

8

The Poisoned Cup.

"May Almighty God have mercy on you and forgive you. Why did you treat me in this manner? Did I not tell you beforehand that your manner of living could never agree with mine? Go your ways, and seek some other father suitable to your own conditions, For I intend now not to stay among you any longer."

St. Benedict soon found out that the manners of the monks of Vicovaro did not square with his just idea of a monastic state. At length matters came to a crisis. The most depraved among the brethren, having taken counsel among themselves, determined to poison their saintly master and spiritual father. They procured some deadly potion which they put into the cup from which he daily drank. While the brethren were assembled in the dining-room, the server steps forward with the poisoned cup and offers it to the Saint. When according to his custom, before he drank of it he made the sign of the Cross over the cup, it broke as if a stone had fallen upon it. The guilty monks were paralyzed with terror. St Benedict, rising with a calm countenance, thus addressed the monks: "May Almighty God have mercy on you and forgive you. Why did you treat me in this manner? Did I not tell" etc-sic supra. -- Thus taking leave of them, he returned to Subiacum.

A.D. 523

9

Maurus saves Placidus from drowning.

"Make haste brother Maurus, for the boy who went to fetch the water, has fallen into the lake: he is already caught by a strong current."

One day Placidus, then a boy about eight years old, went to the lake to fetch water. Stooping down to fill the pitcher he lost his balance and fell in. St. Benedict seeing the accident, quickly called Maurus and commanded him to rescue Placidus. Having received St. Benedict's blessing, Maurus ran quickly over the water of the lake and taking hold of the hair, brought Placidus safely on land. Only then Maurus realized that he had been walking on water. Hurrying back the two boys told St. Benedict what had happened. St. Benedict attributed this to the prompt obedience of Maurus. Maurus, however, disclaimed any share in the miracle. Placidus decided the matter by saying: "When I was drawn out of the water I saw the garment of our father over my head, and it seemed to me that he drew me out."

St. Benedict draws Water from a Rock.

"Go and dig a little at the spot on that mountain, where you will find three stones placed on top of each other. Almighty God shall bring forth water from the mountain top to spare you the trouble of such a long walk".

Among the monasteries founded by St. Benedict there were three situated almost on the summit of the mountain. In consequence the monks suffered much from want of water and were forced to fetch it from a lake half a mile below on a road exceedingly steep and dangerous. They therefore requested St. Benedict to change the location of their monasteries. St. Benedict consoled them and promised relief. That same night, taking the boy Placidus with him he went up the mountain side to pray. His prayers finished, he placed three stones to mark the spot where he prayed and returned to his monastery. The following day, when the brethren came again to complain, St. Benedict said to them: "Go and dig a little etc.-sic supra"

Having reached the spot indicated by St. Benedict, they found the rock already moist. They dug a hole, which was soon filled with water. Water burst forth in such abundance that it overflowed into the valley below.

A.D. 529

11

The Poisoned Loaf.

"In the name of Jesus Christ take this bread, and carry it to a place where no man shall be able to find it.-----Do not be afraid to lift it up and put it where it cannot be found."

Many people came to St. Benedict for counsel and spiritual direction. This aroused the envy of a neighboring parish-priest by the name of Fulgentius. Seeing that he could not dissuade the people from coming to St. Benedict, he yielded to a most diabolical suggestion. It was customary in those days to send each other blessed bread in token of friendship. Florentius under the guise of Christian courtesy sent a poisoned loaf of bread to St. Benedict. When the monks were assembled in the refectory at dinner time, a raven also came to receive food from the hands of the saint as was its wont. St. Benedict commanded it to carry the bread to a place where no one would find it. The raven opened its mouth, and fluttered about, and hopped up and down around the loaf, croaking as much as to say that it was willing to do what it was told, but had not the power. Seeing this St. Benedict repeated his command. At last the raven made a supreme effort, fixed its beak into the loaf and flew away, returning after three hours to receive its accustomed meal.

A.D. 529

13

Fulgentius' diabolical Plan.

Finding that he could not harm St. Benedict personally, Fulgentius determined to ruin the souls of his children by exposing them to vile temptations. He sent some shameless girls to bathe in the river Anio, under the very windows of the monastery, and told them to dance and disport themselves in the sight of the monks. Realizing the great danger for his children, St. Benedict decided to leave Subiaco. Having arranged the affairs of his monasteries at Subiaco, he departed taking with him a few of the brethren.

A.D. 529

St. Benedict Destroys the Idol Of Apollo.

15

The people of Monte Cassino were given to idolatry and superstition. Having reached his destination, St. Benedict began to destroy the pagan altars, breaking the idols and burning the heathen groves.

A.D. 530

16

The Erection of the Monastery.

The Immovable Stone

One day, when the monks were cleaning the site they found a large stone, which they thought might be useful for building. When they tried to lift it, to their amazement they found that it remained immovable, though ordinarily one man could have easily ~~been~~ moved it. The monks reported this matter to St. Benedict. He immediately saw that this was the work of the evil spirit. After saying a short prayer, he blessed the stone and it could be carried away with the greatest of ease.

17
A.D. 530

A Novice Raised to Life

Again, whilst the monks were building a wall, the devil appeared to St. Benedict and mockingly told him that he was going to visit his children at their work. The saint immediately sent a messenger to warn the brethren. No sooner had he arrived, the wall suddenly gave away and crushed a young novice, the son of a Roman senator. The boy was so mangled and crushed, that he had to be carried in a sack to St. Benedict. Having dismissed the brethren, the Saint locked the door and implored God to restore life to the bruised corpse. Presently the novice rose up sound and well as he had been before the accident. And St. Benedict sent him back to his work.

18
A.D. 536

The Holy Rule.

Some historians claim that St. Benedict wrote his famous Rule in 536. Among all the wonderful deeds performed by St. Benedict is the creation of the Holy Rule, asserts St. Gregory. "It cannot be denied, he writes, that the man of God was illustrious not merely by the many miracles he wrought but also on account of his doctrine; for he wrote a Rule for his monks excellent for its wisdom and prudence and marvelous for the clearness of speech". That it was dictated by the Holy Spirit we see clearly from the universal respect and appreciation in which it has always been held, and and from the fact that it was adopted by all the Western monks and commended by many Councils.

Galla, the Goth.

Galla, one of the captains of Totila, king of the Goths, was an Arian, and his hatred for Catholics was such that he considered no cruelty too barbarous to inflict on any he met. One day, having set out as usual to plunder and pillage, he met a laborer, and seizing him began to maltreat him, with the hope of obtaining any small earnings he might have. The poor man trying to get away from his tormentor by referring the case to St. Benedict, said that he had entrusted his savings to the abbot of Monte Cassino. Upon this the barbarian bound him with a rope and drove him before his horse to the abbey. St. Benedict was sitting at the gate reading. When the laborer caught sight of him he pointed him out to Galla saying: "This is Father Benedict, of whom I spoke." The Goth, thinking to frighten the Saint, shouted to him in an insolent manner: "Rise sir, and hand over this fellow's property which he tells me you have in your keeping."

St. Benedict merely raised his eyes from his book and looked at the ruffian and his prisoner. At the same moment the cords which bound the peasant fell from him. On beholding this Galla was struck with fear, and dismounting he threw himself at the Saint's feet. St. Benedict, however kept on reading; and calling one of the monks, told him to take Galla and give him some refreshment. After he had taken some food, the Saint exhorted him to change his impious mode of life. Overcome by the Saint's words, he retired and left the poor laborer in peace.

Totila's Deception Discovered.

"Put off, my son, those robes which you wear, for they do not belong to you."

Totila the Arian king of the Goths, having heard of the sanctity of St. Benedict, resolved to find out if he really had the gift of prophesy. With this end in view, he caused his swordbearer, named Riggo, to array himself in the royal robes, and attended by the three principal lords of his court, he sent him to the monastery. St. Benedict was sitting near the gate when they arrived. No sooner had he perceived them, than he called to Riggo: "My son, put off those robes which you wear, for they do not belong to you." The mock-king, being struck with a panic for attempting to deceive the man of God, fell prostrate at his feet, together with his attendants. Returning to the king, they related what had occurred.

A.D. 542

21

Totila's visit to St. Benedict.

Then Totila went in person to visit the venerable abbot, and seeing him in the distance he also was afraid to approach, and overcome with awe he fell down at his feet. St. Benedict rebuked him for his wickedness prophesying the evils which would in consequence befall him. He said, "You do evil things, you have committed many crimes, but now at last amend your sinful life. You will enter Rome, cross the sea, reign nine years and you will die in the tenth. The prophesy was verified when Totila took Rome in 546 crossed to Sicily in 549 and returning to Italy, died in August 552.

A.D. 543

St. Benedict sends Maurus to France.

22

"My sons, this enterprise you are undertaking for the love of our Lord is a very important one, therefore I am confident that He, Himself will give you the strength you need, If when God calls me out of this world I have any power with Him, rest assured that the help of my prayers will never fail you."

Toward the close of the year 542, Innocent, bishop of Le Mans, sent an embassy to St. Benedict with the request to make a foundation in his own diocese. The Saint granted the request and decided to send Maurus into France, On the tenth of January, 543 the monks assembled to bid a last farewell to Maurus and his four companions, Faustus, Simplicius, Anthony and Constantine. St. Benedict blessed them and said: "My sons, this enterprise you are etc.-sic supra-." Then he gave Maurus a copy of the Rule which he had written with his own hands. He also gave him among other relics a piece of the true Cross.

A.D. 543

Death of St. Scholastica.

23

Three days after this remarkable meeting, Scholastica died in her convent on the tenth of February, 543. At the hour of her death, St. Benedict was in his cell, when raising his eyes he saw the soul of his sister ascending to heaven in the form of a dove. Filled with joy at her happy passage he gave thanks to God and announced her death to his brethren.

A.D. 543

The translation of the Body of St. Scholastica to Monte Cassino.

"Lovely and comely in their life, even in death they were not divided."
2 Kings I. 23.

St. Benedict sent some monks to bring the body of his sister to his monastery, where he buried it in the grave he had prepared for himself. As the souls of Benedict and Scholastica were always one in God while they lived, so their bodies continued together after death.

A.D. 543

Death of ST. Benedict.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his Saints"

ON the 15th of March St. Benedict had his grave opened. Scarcely had this been done than he was seized by a violent fever which consumed the little life still remaining in him. Day by day his illness gained ground and he grew more feeble, until at length on the sixth day, calling his brethren, he bade them to carry him to the church, there to receive for the last time the Sacred Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Standing in the oratory, supported by his sorrowing children, he died, his hands uplifted to heaven in prayer, on the 21th of March, 543.