

# THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

## (2) A Thorny Situation

[adapted by Deacon Roy Goetz, from [The Dialogues, Book II](#) by [St. Gregory the Great](#)]



One day when Benedict was alone, the tempter came in the form of a blackbird. Even though the bird hovered within reach, Benedict did not reach for the bird, but instead made the sign of the cross and the bird flew away. The moment the bird flew away, Benedict was gripped by a strong temptation: His memory was filled with thoughts of a woman he had once seen. If not for the grace of God, he might have abandoned his life of solitude to pursue her. Noticing a nearby patch of thorns and nettles, Benedict stripped bare and threw himself into the harsh plants where he rolled and suffered until bloody. Through God's grace and Benedict's own suffering, he was able to overcome this temptation. He later reported to his disciples that he was never tempted in this particular way again.