

THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

(4) Beat the Devil Out of Him

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



In one of the monasteries founded by Benedict, there was a monk who wouldn't remain with the community during silent prayer. After chanting the Psalms, he would slip out of chapel and wander about aimlessly. His abbot warned him repeatedly and finally sent him to Benedict for correction. The saint rebuked him sternly, but still after a day or two, the monk returned to his practice of wandering. Benedict decided to visit the monastery personally to see to it that the monk mend his ways. Benedict joined the monks for prayer and noticed that the erring monk was led outside by a little black boy pulling on the edge of his habit. The abbot and [Maurus](#) (Maurus was one of the first boys sent to Subiaco for schooling) were unable to see what was happening, but after two days of prayer, Maurus too could see the little boy drawing the monk away from prayer. The next day following prayers, Benedict found the offending monk outside and struck him with his staff for being so stubborn of heart. From then on, the monk remained quietly at prayer without being bothered by the tempter.