

# THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

## (13) A Pilgrim's Progress

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



One of Benedict's monks, Valentinian, had a brother who was a very devout layman. Once a year he would come to the abbey to visit his brother and to receive a blessing from Benedict. He would always fast on this annual pilgrimage. On one particular time, he was joined on his journey by another traveler who carried with him some food. After they had walked some distance together, the traveler offered Valentinian's brother some food. He refused, explaining that he always fasted on his way to visit the monastery. After a while he offered again, and once more Valentinian's brother refused to break his fast. After they had covered a long distance and were very tired from their journey, they came upon a meadow and a spring and again the traveler suggested they take some food and drink to regain their strength for the remainder of the journey. This time the pilgrim gave in and broke his fast. When he arrived late in the day at the monastery, he asked for Benedict's blessing, but Benedict scolded him for his conduct on the journey: "How is it that the evil spirit who spoke to you on the journey could not persuade you to do his will the first and second time he tried, but was successful on the third?" Valentinian's brother fell to his knees and admitted the weakness of his will. He was filled with shame that Benedict could witness his wrongdoing even from such a distance.

Windows—*St. Benedict Church, Subiaco, Arkansas, USA*

[Subiaco Academy](#), 405 North Subiaco Avenue, Subiaco, AR, USA, 72865-9798