

THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

(19) Hidden Gifts

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



Not far from the monastery was a village where many newly converted Christians lived. There were nuns living there as well, and Benedict was in the habit of sending his monks there to offer spiritual guidance. After one of these visits, the nuns presented the visiting monk with a gift of handkerchiefs. The monk accepted the gift and hid the handkerchiefs away in his habit. As soon as he arrived back at the monastery, he received a stern reproof. Benedict asked him, “How is it, that evil has found its way into your heart?” At first the monk was confused because he had forgotten about the gift. Benedict continued, “Was I not present when you accepted those handkerchiefs from the handmaids of God and hid them away in your habit?” The monk fell at Benedict’s feet, confessed his fault and gave up the present he had received.