

THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

(23) An Oblation

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



Some distance from Benedict’s abbey, two women of noble birth were striving to lead the religious life in their own home. A local God-fearing man acted as a servant to the two women—taking care of the practical needs of their household. Unfortunately, as is often the case, the character of the two women was not in harmony with their noble birth. They were too conscious of their former station to practice true humility toward their kindly servant. They were often condescending and harsh towards him. After having put up with their harsh tongues for some time, the man went to see Benedict and related to him how cruel they were. The holy abbot warned the women that they might suffer excommunication if they did not change their ways. Shortly after Benedict’s warning, the two women died before amending their ways and were buried beneath their parish church. Whenever Mass was celebrated, their nurse who often prayed for them noticed that when it was time for communion, the two women would rise from their tombs and go outside. It was customary for people outside of full communion with the Church to excuse themselves when it was time to receive the Eucharist. Despite the bizarre nature of the situation, this made sense when the nurse recalled Benedict’s warning of excommunication of the two women. When Benedict heard of this, he sent messengers to the parish with an oblation and said, “Offer this up for their souls during the Holy Mass, and they will be

freed from their excommunication.” The offering was made, and the women’s souls were released to ascend to the Lord.

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