

THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

(30) Ancient Enemy of Mankind

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



One day as Benedict went to the Chapel of Saint John to pray, he encountered the ancient enemy of mankind disguised as a veterinarian. The devil was carrying a medicine horn and triple shackle. “Where are you going?” the saint asked. The devil replied with scorn, “I am going to your brothers to take them some medicine.” Undisturbed, the holy man continued to the chapel, but after his prayers hurried back to the monastery. Upon his return he found that one of the monks had encountered the devil while drawing water and was suffering violent convulsions. Benedict saw his suffering, approached him, and struck him on the cheek. At his touch the evil spirit was driven away, never to return.