

THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

(1) Miracle at Affile

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



As a young man, Benedict went to [Rome](#) to study. Once there, he was disillusioned with the decadence he saw in Rome and the lack of seriousness in his fellow students. Accompanied by his nurse, he traveled to the town of [Affile](#), about thirty-five miles east of Rome. At the invitation of some devout men, he and his nurse stayed in a simple lodging next to the [Church of Saint Peter](#). One day after asking her neighbors to lend her a tray for cleaning wheat, the nurse left the tray on the edge of the table where it was knocked off and broken in two. The poor woman was very upset that the borrowed tray had been broken. When Benedict saw her weeping, he felt sorry for her, knelt down, picked up the broken pieces and prayed earnestly to God to the point of tears. As soon as he finished his prayer, he noticed that the tray was whole again. News of this miracle spread rapidly through the countryside, and the much talked about tray was hung up at the entrance to the church. Because Benedict wished for solitude and not the attention of men, he fled his nurse and Affile and traveled to the wilderness of [Subiaco](#).