

THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

(10) Faux Flames

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



This story is tied to a previous account of Benedict's help and prayers in removing a large stone from the monastery building site at [Monte Cassino](#). Benedict directed the monks to dig up the earth where the stone had been. Here they discovered a bronze idol which they threw into the kitchen nearby. Suddenly the kitchen appeared to be on fire, and the monks raised quite a commotion throwing water on the imagined flames. Benedict was drawn to the scene but was unable to see the flames that seemed so real to his monks. He bowed his head in prayer and soon opened their eyes to the mistake they were making. Instead of the flames the evil spirit had devised, they saw the kitchen standing intact.