

THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

(35) Great Ball of Fire

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



On one occasion, the deacon Servandus came to see Benedict. Servandus was also an abbot and came regularly to visit with Benedict about their common hopes and longings for the spiritual life. Late in the evening, the two men retired to their rooms. Benedict rose early, long before the morning office and was standing at his window. All at once he saw a flood of light more brilliant than the sun. By his own description, “The whole world was gathered up in a single beam of light. As I gazed at this sight I saw the soul of [Germanus](#), the Bishop of [Capua](#), being carried by angels up to heaven in a ball of fire.” Wanting someone else to witness this marvel, Benedict called out for Servandus. He awakened and rushed to the window just in time to see the last of the fading light. Benedict then described the fullness of the event to him. Benedict sent Theoprobos to send word to [Cassino](#) to inquire about Germanus. They learned that the holy bishop had died at the very moment that Benedict had seen his soul carried to heaven.