



Buon Natale!

From the Desk of Mother Mary Wendy:

St. Gregory the Great tells many miracle stories in Book Two of the *Dialogues: Life of St. Benedict*. One of my favorites is the story of young Placidus, who was placed in the care of St. Benedict from a very young age.

One day the young monk went down to the lake to fetch water. Carelessly putting his pail too close to the shore, he slipped and fell in head first. As recorded by St. Gregory, "The water forthwith carried him away from the land as far as one may shoot an arrow." (In those days that would have been pretty far).

St. Benedict, who was in his cell, understood (by intuition) what was happening. He called quickly for Maurus, saying, "Brother Maurus, run as fast as you can, for Placidus has fallen into the lake and has been carried a good way off."

Maurus asked for St. Benedict's blessing and ran as fast as he could to the spot on the water where Placidus had been carried to, thinking all the while that he was running on land. Maurus took hold of Placidus by the hair of his head and in all haste returned with him to the shore. As soon as he was on land he came to his senses and, looking back, realized he had just run across the water (St. Peter must have been proud!).

Returning to Father Benedict, and telling him what had happened, Maurus said that the miracle occurred only because he, Father Abbot, had commanded it and that he had nothing to do with what happened, since at that time he didn't know what he was doing. But St. Benedict did not attribute anything to himself, giving all credit to the obedience of Maurus. The friendly debate proceeded in mutual humility, but Placidus, who had been saved from drowning, told them the truth. He said that when he was drawn out of the water, he saw the Abbot's garment on his head, affirming that it was St. Benedict who performed the miracle.

So, the next time someone asks you to do something that goes against your nature, like cleaning out the garage or buying groceries for your wife twenty minutes before the football game starts, use it as an opportunity to barter with the Lord! Say to Him, "I'll happily do this chore if you'll just...convert my children, or bring peace to my family or...whatever spiritual grace you are seeking. It is faith and obedience that moves the heart of Jesus to make all our impossible mountains fall into the sea. (Mk 11:23)

- Mother Mary Wendy



Merry
Christmas!



Please consider
supporting our missions
with your contribution!



Advent is the season of anticipation as the coming of the Christ Child brings hope, joy and mercy to a fallen world. Jesus tells St. Faustina in her diary, "Speak to the world about My mercy; let all mankind recognize My unfathomable mercy. It is a sign for the end times; after it will come the day of justice. While there is still time let them have recourse to the fount of My mercy" (848). We ask for your prayers and support throughout the coming year as we speak about the message of mercy, the joy of the gospel, the gift of the Eucharist, and the intercessory power of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to a world starving for truth and direction.

THE SAINT WHO GUIDED US THROUGH 2018!

Have you ever felt that you were being led by a saint? This year one particular saint seemed to be watching and guiding much of our year. Mother wanted the community to study Latin Chant and the Benedictine Rule and so St. Benedict stepped in to fulfill her every wish.



Benedictine Sisters in Rosano, Italy. These gifted nuns restore ancient manuscripts and the illumination on the front is their handiwork.

et labora) and learned much about the rule and miraculous life of the father of western monasticism. We brought along small flashlights as gifts for all fifty-four sisters, to help them read during their early morning meditation time. Their Abbess, Mother Stefania, said that one night she turned off the lights in their chapter room, and with much joy all the sisters turned on their flashlights at once, just to see them light up the ceiling. She even told us that one sister was so grateful to have a flashlight because she now felt safer in case the power went out in the middle of the night.

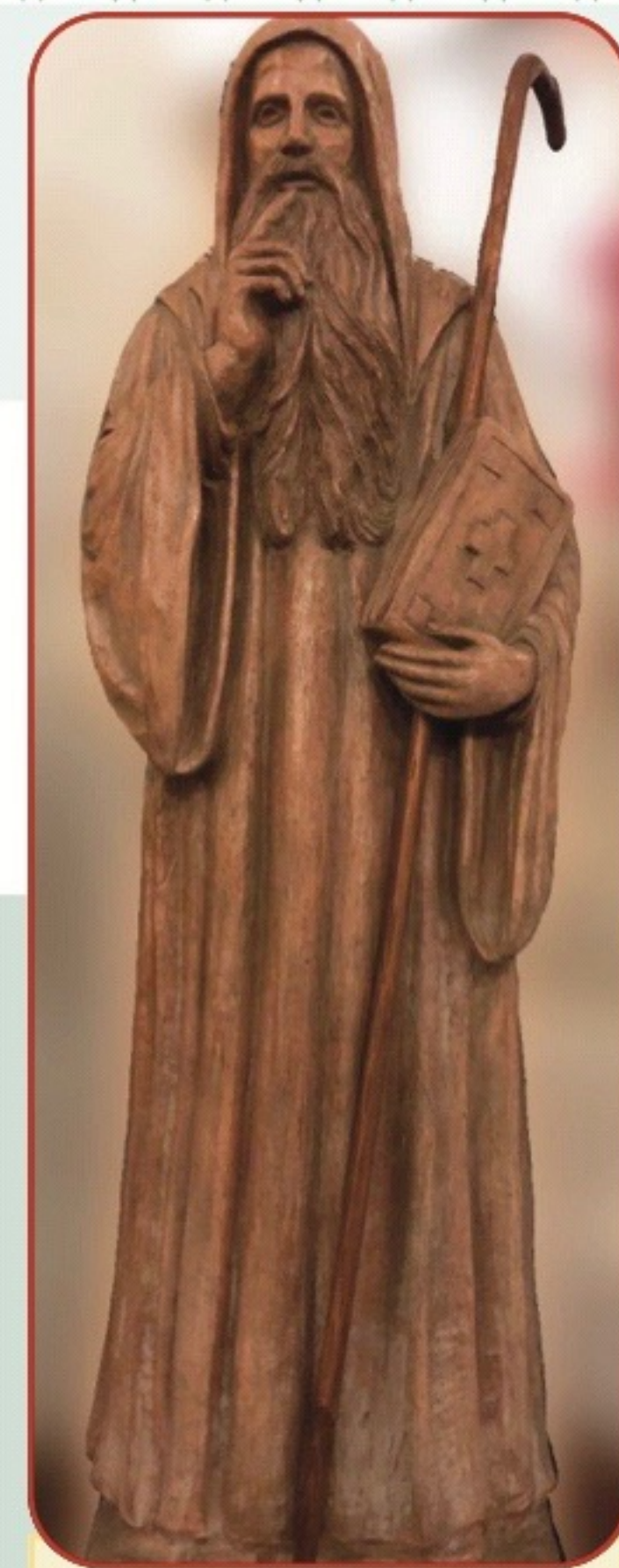
While we were still in Rosano, a group of pilgrims came to the monastery for a day of reflection. They were led by a very holy priest, Dom Luigi Oropallo, who is a Diocesan exorcist in Tuscany. One of the pilgrims was named Tiziana, and she



Waiting for the bell to ring!

spoke excellent English (she happened to have a house in Florida not 20 minutes from one of our relatives). She volunteered to take us to visit St. Anselmo, the oldest Benedictine monastery in Italy, and to Monte Oliveto Maggiore, another Benedictine monastery with frescoes depicting the life and miracles of St. Benedict. Tiziana also took us to a special healing Mass offered once per month by Dom Oropallo and after the Mass, he spent a good deal of time visiting with us. It was quite an extraordinary day.

Next, while in Rome looking for the church in honor of St. Barnabas, we “stumbled upon” St. Benedict’s small home and prayer cell located in the church of San Benedetto in Piscinula. He had lived in that location as a student between 500 A.D. and 510 A.D., but grew disillusioned with his studies and the secular life and left Rome to pursue the spiritual life.



St. Benedict



St. Anselmo Monastery

Finally, during the summer, we attended classes at Vita Consecrata Institute at Christendom College in Virginia. One of the classes was taught by Father Cassian, a renowned teacher and the founder of the Benedictine Monks of Norcia. He offered a wonderful class on the Institutes and Conferences of St. John Cassian, a monk and ascetic writer who lived in Southern Gaul and who first introduced Eastern Monasticism to the West. We were later blessed to have Fr. Cassian visit our convent for dinner and he spontaneously offered a conference on redemptive suffering.



Fr. Cassian gives us a class on redemptive suffering

The Lord teaches us to, "Ask and you shall receive," and we have certainly received a great gift of knowledge of the Benedictine way of life and Latin chant in "good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over" in our laps! Thank you, St. Benedict!
(Lk 11:9, 6:38)

A Sample of our Apostolic Works in 2018



*Answer for back page:
Sr. Mary Augustine is getting up at 4 A.M. to pray. What makes all our ora et labora (prayer & work) possible?
- Coffee!*



Retreat Talk at St. Luke Catholic Church

In September, Sr. Mary Augustine gave a talk on the "One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church" at a retreat for the volunteers and staff at St. Luke's Church in Morgantown, WV.



Rosary Novena

Sr. Mary Francis led the Rosary for a Novena with Adoration and Benediction during the month of October at St. Paul's Church in Weirton, West Virginia.



Mission at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Mother Wendy gave a beautiful talk on Divine Mercy during a Lenten Mission in March at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Syracuse, NY. Sr. Mary Augustine also prepared the people for confession with her talk: The Seven Sorrows of Our Lady in Reparation for the Seven Deadly Sins. You can watch or listen to this talk on our website: www.sistersofreparation.org



Bishop Durairaj of India visits Steubenville

Many of you donated to the Bunk Bed Project for India, and when Bishop Durairaj came to America to visit his priests on assignment here, he made a special visit to our convent to thank us for all we have done for the children in his Diocese of Khandwa. You were all remembered in a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated in our convent by Bishop Durairaj.

*Sisters of Reparation to the
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
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*O come, Thou Dayspring
from on high,
And cheer us by Thy
drawing nigh.*



The Sisters of Reparation Christmas Newsletter

From the Desk of Mother Mary Wendy McMenemy.

A Christmas Novena will be prayed for your intentions.

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LABORA

*The Saint who guided
us through 2018...*



What
makes
all our ora
et labora
possible?
Answer
on p. 3