

THE RULE OF SAINT BENEDICT

IN ENGLISH AND LATIN

TRANSLATED BY
ABBOT JUSTIN McCANN, OSB



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CONTENTS OF THE RULE

| CHAP. | PAGE |
|--|------|
| PROLOGUE | 7 |
| 1. THE KINDS OF MONKS | 15 |
| 2. WHAT KIND OF MAN THE ABBOT SHOULD BE | 17 |
| 3. OF CALLING THE BRETHREN TO COUNCIL | 25 |
| 4. THE TOOLS OF GOOD WORKS | 27 |
| 5. OF OBEDIENCE | 33 |
| 6. OF SILENCE | 35 |
| 7. OF HUMILITY | 37 |
| 8. THE DIVINE OFFICE AT NIGHT | 49 |
| 9. HOW MANY PSALMS ARE TO BE SAID AT THE NIGHT OFFICE | 51 |
| 10. HOW THE NIGHT OFFICE IS TO BE SAID IN SUMMER | 53 |
| 11. HOW THE NIGHT OFFICE IS TO BE SAID ON SUNDAYS | 53 |
| 12. HOW THE OFFICE OF LAUDS IS TO BE SAID | 55 |
| 13. HOW LAUDS SHALL BE SAID ON ORDINARY DAYS | 57 |
| 14. HOW THE NIGHT OFFICE IS TO BE PERFORMED ON SAINTS' DAYS | 59 |
| 15. AT WHAT SEASONS ALLELUIA IS TO BE SAID | 59 |
| 16. HOW THE WORK OF GOD IS TO BE PERFORMED IN THE DAY-TIME | 61 |
| 17. HOW MANY PSALMS ARE TO BE SAID AT THESE HOURS | 61 |
| 18. IN WHAT ORDER THE PSALMS ARE TO BE SAID | 63 |
| 19. THE MANNER OF SAYING THE DIVINE OFFICE | 67 |
| 20. OF REVERENCE IN PRAYER | 69 |
| 21. THE DEANS OF THE MONASTERY | 69 |

CONTENTS

| CHAP. | PAGE |
|---|------|
| 21. HOW THE MONKS ARE TO SLEEP | 71 |
| 23. OF EXCOMMUNICATION FOR FAULTS | 73 |
| 24. WHAT THE MEASURE OF EXCOMMUNICATION SHOULD BE | 73 |
| 25. OF GRAVER FAULTS | 75 |
| 26. OF THOSE WHO WITHOUT LEAVE CONSORT WITH THE EXCOMMUNICATED | 75 |
| 27. THAT THE ABBOT BE SOLICITOUS FOR THE EXCOMMUNICATED | 77 |
| 28. OF THOSE WHO THOUGH OFTEN CORRECTED WILL NOT AMEND | 79 |
| 29. WHETHER BRETHREN WHO LEAVE THE MONASTERY SHOULD BE RECEIVED AGAIN | 79 |
| 30. HOW BOYS ARE TO BE CORRECTED | 81 |
| 31. WHAT KIND OF MAN THE CELLARER OF THE MONASTERY SHOULD BE | 81 |
| 32. THE TOOLS AND PROPERTY OF THE MONASTERY | 85 |
| 33. WHETHER MONKS SHOULD HAVE ANYTHING OF THEIR OWN | 85 |
| 34. WHETHER ALL SHOULD RECEIVE NECESSARIES IN LIKE MEASURE | 87 |
| 35. OF THE WEEKLY KITCHENERS | 87 |
| 36. OF SICK BRETHREN | 91 |
| 37. OF OLD MEN AND CHILDREN | 93 |
| 38. OF THE WEEKLY READER | 93 |
| 39. THE MEASURE OF FOOD | 95 |
| 40. THE MEASURE OF DRINK | 97 |
| 41. THE HOURS OF MEALS | 99 |
| 42. THAT NO ONE SPEAK AFTER COMPLINE | 101 |

CONTENTS

| CHAP. | PAGE |
|---|------|
| 43. OF THOSE WHO COME LATE TO THE WORK OF GOD OR TO TABLE | 103 |
| 44. HOW THE EXCOMMUNICATED ARE TO MAKE SATISFACTION | 105 |
| 45. OF THOSE WHO MAKE MISTAKES IN THE ORATORY | 107 |
| 46. OF THOSE WHO OFFEND IN ANY OTHER MATTERS | 109 |
| 47. THE SIGNAL FOR THE WORK OF GOD | 109 |
| 48. OF THE DAILY MANUAL LABOR | 111 |
| 49. OF THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT | 115 |
| 50. OF BRETHREN WHO ARE WORKING FAR FROM THE ORATORY OR JOURNEYING | 117 |
| 51. OF BRETHREN WHO DO NOT GO VERY FAR | 117 |
| 52. OF THE ORATORY OF THE MONASTERY | 119 |
| 53. OF THE RECEPTION OF GUESTS | 119 |
| 54. WHETHER A MONK SHOULD RECEIVE LETTERS OR ANYTHING ELSE | 123 |
| 55. THE CLOTHES AND SHOES OF THE BRETHREN | 125 |
| 56. OF THE ABBOT'S TABLE | |
| 57. THE CRAFTSMEN OF THE MONASTERY | 129 |
| 58. THE ORDER FOR THE RECEPTION OF BRETHREN | 129 |
| 59. THE OFFERING OF THE SONS OF THE RICH AND OF THE POOR | 135 |
| 60. OF PRIESTS WHO MAY WISH TO DWELL IN THE MONASTERY | 137 |
| 61. HOW PILGRIM MONKS ARE TO BE RECEIVED | 139 |
| 62. THE PRIESTS OF THE MONASTERY | 141 |
| 63. THE ORDER OF THE COMMUNITY | 143 |
| 64. THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ABBOT | 145 |
| 65. THE PRIOR OF THE MONASTERY | 149 |

CONTENTS

| CHAP. | PAGE |
|---|------|
| 66.OF THE PORTERS OF THE MONASTERY | 153 |
| 67.OF BRETHREN WHO ARE SENT ON A JOURNEY | 153 |
| 68.IF A BROTHER BE COMMANDED TO DO IMPOSSIBLE THINGS | 155 |
| 69.THAT THE MONKS PRESUME NOT TO DEFEND ONE ANOTHER | 157 |
| 70.THAT NO ONE VENTURE TO PUNISH AT RANDOM | 157 |
| 71.THAT THE BRETHREN BE OBEDIENT TO ONE ANOTHER | 159 |
| 72.OF THE GOOD ZEAL WHICH MONKS OUGHT TO HAVE | 159 |
| 73.THAT THE FULL OBSERVANCE OF JUSTICE IS NOT ESTABLISHED IN THIS RULE | 161 |

THE TEXT OF THE RULE
IN LATIN AND ENGLISH

SANCTI BENEDICTI REGULA
REGULA SANCTI PATRIS NOSTRI
BENEDICTI
INCIPIT PROLOGUS SCT^{MI} PATRIS NOSTRI
BENEDICTI IN REGULAM SUAM

Jan. 1
Maji 2
Sept. 1

AUSCULTA, o fili, præcepta magistri, et inclina aurem cordis tui, et admonitionem pii patris libenter excipe, et efficaciter comple; ut ad eum per obedientiæ laborem redeas a quo per inobedientiæ desidiam recesseras. Ad te ergo nunc meus sermo dirigitur, quisquis abrenuntians propriis voluntatibus, Domino Christo vero regi militaturus, obedientiæ fortissima atque præclara arma assumis.

In primis, ut quidquid agendum inchoas bonum, ab eo perfici instantissima oratione deposcas; ut qui nos jam in filiorum dignatus est numero computare, non debeat aliquando de malis actibus nostris contristari. Ita enim ei omni tempore de bonis suis in nobis parendum est: ut non solum, ut iratus pater, non aliquando filios suos exhæredet; sed nec ut metuendus dominus, irritatus malis nostris, ut nequissimos servos perpetuam tradat ad pœnam, qui eum sequi noluerint ad gloriam.

Jan. 2
Maji 3
Sept. 2

Exsurgamus ergo tandem aliquando, excitante nos Scriptura, ac dicente: Hora est jam nos de somno surgere. Et apertis oculis nostris ad deificum lumen, attonitis auribus audiamus divina quotidie clamans quid nos admoneat vox, dicens: Hodie, si vocem ejus audieritis, nolite obdurare corda vestra. Et iterum: Qui habet aures audiendi, audiat quid

PROLOGUE

SAINT BENEDICT'S RULE FOR MONKS

PROLOGUE

HEARKEN, my son, to the precepts of the master and incline the ear of thy heart; freely accept and faithfully fulfil the instructions of a loving father, that by the labor of obedience thou mayest return to him from whom thou hast strayed by the sloth of disobedience. To thee are my words now addressed, whosoever thou mayest be that renouncing thine own will to fight for the true King, Christ, dost take up the strong and glorious weapons of obedience.

*Jan. 1
May 2
Sept. 1*

And first of all, whatever good work thou undertakest, ask him with most instant prayer to perfect it, so that he who has deigned to count us among his sons may never be provoked by our evil conduct. For we must always so serve him with the gifts which he has given us, that he may never as an angry father disinherit his children, nor yet as a dread lord be driven by our sins to cast into everlasting punishment the wicked servants who would not follow him to glory.

Up with us then at last, for the Scripture arouseth us, saying: *Now is the hour for us to rise from sleep.*¹ Let us open our eyes to the divine light, and let us hear with attentive ears the warning that the divine voice crieth daily to us: *Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*² And again: *He that hath ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches.*³ And what doth he say? *Come, ye children, hearken*

*Jan. 2
May 3
Sept. 2*

¹Rom. 13:11 • ²Ps. 94:8 • ³Matt. 11:15; Apoc. 2:7

SANCTI BENEDICTI REGULA

Spiritus dicat Ecclesiis. Et quid dicit? Venite filii, audite me: timorem Domini docebo vos. Currite, dum lumen vitæ habetis, ne tenebræ mortis vos comprehendant.

Jan. 3 Et quærens Dominus in multitudine populi, cui hæc
Maji 4 clamat, operarium suum, iterum dicit: Quis est homo qui
Sept. 3 vult vitam, et cupit videre dies bonos? Quod si tu audiens respondeas, Ego: dicit tibi Deus: Si vis habere veram et perpetuam vitam, prohibe linguam tuam a malo, et labia tua ne loquantur dolum. Diverte a malo, et fac bonum; inquire pacem et sequere eam. Et cum hæc feceritis, oculi mei super vos, et aures meæ ad preces vestras; et antequam me invocetis, dicam: Ecce adsum. Quid dulcius nobis hac voce Domini invitantis nos, fratres carissimi? Ecce pietate sua demonstrat nobis Dominus viam vitæ.

Jan. 4 Succinctis ergo fide vel observantia bonorum actuum
Maji 5 lumbis nostris, per ducatum Evangelii pergamus itinera
Sept. 4 ejus ut mereamur eum qui nos vocavit, in regno suo videre. In cujus regni tabernaculo si volumus habitare, nisi illuc bonis actibus currendo, minime pervenitur. Sed interrogemus cum Propheta Dominum, dicentes ei: Domine, quis habitabit in tabernaculo tuo, aut quis requiescet in monte sancto tuo? Post hanc interrogationem, fratres, audiamus Dominum respondentem, et ostendentem nobis viam ipsius tabernaculi, ac dicentem: Qui ingreditur sine macula, et operatur justitiam; qui loquitur veritatem in corde suo; qui non egit dolum in lingua sua; qui non fecit proximo suo malum, et opprobrium non accepit adversus proximum suum. Qui malignum diabolum