



ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH BULLETIN August 30 2020

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Welcome to the Catholic Church!!!

Monika Oanh Wasson, James Charlie Wasson, Madeline Wasson, Dong Wang (Henry), Yan-cheng Wang (Curtis), Patrick Chu, and Shawn Zachary Burns were baptized on August 27.

Congratulations!!!

Father Anthony is going to teach RCIA and PREP (Grade 4 and up) online via Zoom (with in-person option) in September. PREP on Tuesday (Starting Sept. 15) from 4:15 pm to 5 pm. RCIA in English on Wednesday (Starting Sept. 16) from 7 pm to 8 pm. RCIA in Mandarin on Thursday (Starting Sept. 10) from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. RCIA in Cantonese on Saturday (on-going) 2:30 pm to 3:15 pm. Please contact Father Anthony to register fatheranthonyho@gmail.com



St. Benedict wrote Holy Rule

St. Benedict is the founder of Western Monasticism. He was born in Norcia, Italy, about 480. While studying in Rome, Benedict was put off by the dissolute lifestyle of many of his fellow students and did not wish to make the same mistakes. He went to live as a hermit in a cave near Subiaco. After several years, disciples joined him. Benedict founded twelve monasteries, with an abbot and twelve monks in each of them.

Around 525, Benedict and many of his monks went to Monte Cassino, where they built a new monastery among the woods and groves. Pope Benedict XVI pointed out that St. Benedict's move from the remote Valley of the Anio to Monte Cassino—a plateau dominating the vast surrounding plain which can be seen from afar—has a symbolic character: “a hidden monastic life has its own purpose but a monastery also has its public purpose in the life of the Church and of society, and it must give visibility to the faith as a force of life. Indeed, when Benedict's earthly life ended on 21 March 547, he bequeathed with his *Rule* and the Benedictine family he founded a heritage that bore fruit in the passing centuries and is still bearing fruit throughout the world.”

Regarding the *Rule* written by St. Benedict, St. Gregory wrote, “With all the renown he gained by his numerous miracles, the holy man was no less outstanding for the wisdom of his teaching. He wrote a Rule for Monks that is remarkable for its discretion and its clarity of language. Anyone who wishes to know more about his life and character can discover in his Rule exactly what he was like as abbot, for his life could not have differed from his teaching.”

Father Augustine Kalberer, O.S.B., wrote, “St. Benedict's most characteristic stresses are on a very personal love of Christ and on discretion. Throughout the *Rule* he blends broad principles with concrete applications to guarantee and maximize the advantages community life can offer a well-motivated but otherwise quite ordinary Christian who is ‘truly seeking God.’ The abbot, always remembering human frailty, should order all things ‘in such a way that the strong have something to strive after and the weak nothing at which to take alarm.’”

A writer wrote, “By prayer he [St. Benedict] did all things: wrought miracles, saw visions, and prophesied.” Pope Benedict XVI said, “Throughout the second book of his *Dialogues*, Gregory shows us how St Benedict's life was steeped in an atmosphere of prayer, the foundation of his existence. Without prayer there is no experience of God. Yet Benedict's spirituality was not an interiority removed from reality. In the anxiety and confusion of his day, he lived under God's gaze and in this very way never lost sight of the duties of daily life and of man with his practical needs. Seeing God, he understood the reality of man and his mission.”

St. Gregory recounted the death of St. Benedict: “Six days before he died, he gave orders for his tomb to be opened. Almost immediately he was seized with a violent fever that rapidly wasted his remaining strength. Each day his condition grew worse until finally, on the sixth day, he had his disciples carry him into the chapel, where he received the Body and Blood of our Lord to gain strength for his approaching end. Then, supporting his weakened body on the arms of his brethren, he stood with his hands raised to heaven and as he prayed breathed his last.”