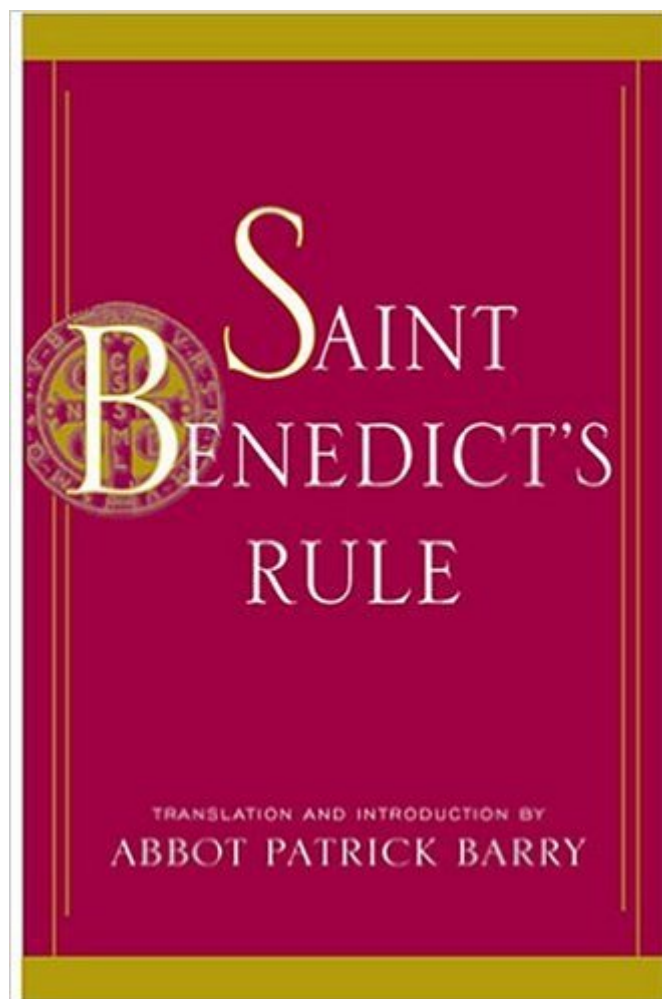


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Saint Benedict's Rule



Synopsis

The wisdom of St. Benedict, the eponymous founder of the order that would bear his name, comes vividly to life in this new and sparkling, contemporary English translation of and introduction to Benedict's "Rule, the seminal guide for life in Christian monastic community. Benedict of Nursia (c. 480-543), born into nobility, renounced his life of privilege to live an eremitic life of extreme asceticism. He became Abbot of the monastic community of Monte Cassino, where he wrote the "Rule, acknowledged as his masterpiece. Modestly referring to the work that would chart the course of Western monasticism as "a little rule for beginners," in 73 brief, intensely focused and sympathetically written treatises and prologue, Benedict prescribed for his monastics a religious life in community with other Christians predicated upon mutual support, obedience, hospitality, tolerance and moderation. The "Rule concerns practical matters--the types and characteristics of monastics and their vows, the rules and regulations governing authority, administration and ownership, detailed descriptions of the rights and duties given the entire community. Practical themes, however, remain secondary to its primary focus, the beating heart of the "Rule, Jesus and His teachings: Jesus in loving obedience to His father, and Jesus in His message of love for and hospitality toward all. It is upon this bedrock that the Benedictine order is and remains anchored.

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Customer Reviews

Saint Benedict's Rule, translated into contemporary English by Abbot Patrick Barry, OSB speaks eloquently to lay people of all denominations as well as to monks and nuns. Freed of scholarly notes, except for those absolutely necessary to clarify the text, and relevant scriptural references,

this volume is unencumbered and very clear-perfect for reading aloud, for group study, or for private devotions. This is a text that predates the divisions in the Church. It has the power to draw its readers, through the guidance and instruction of St. Benedict, nearer to the presence and radiance of Christ himself and to a clearer understanding of how to lead an ordered Christian life today. Abbot Barry's translation takes a text of great antiquity and brings it right here to us, now, as support and inspiration, encouraging us to bring all aspects of our lives into the presence, guidance, and protection of a loving God. The new edition, offered here, is even more valuable than the first, since Abbot Barry has included a magnificent forty-page introduction where he explains the relevance of Saint Benedict's Rule to our lives today and clarifies the often misunderstood concepts of obedience, humility, and silence so essential not only to monastic life but also to the daily experience of all lay people on a spiritual path. Katharine Le M e, author of *Chant and The Benedictine Gift to Music*

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