

As Cellarer of the Monastery

by St. Benedict of Nursia

St. Benedict emphasizes the qualities and responsibilities of a cellarer in the monastery, highlighting humility, care for others, and respect for property.

Scripture: Proverbs 11:24, Matthew 25:40, Colossians 3:23, 1 Timothy 3:13, 1 Peter 4:10

Topics: "Monastic Life", "Stewardship"

Description

St. Benedict of Nursia emphasizes the importance of choosing a wise, mature, and God-fearing individual to serve as the cellarer of the monastery. This person should be humble, obedient to the Abbot's orders, and caring towards the community, especially the sick, children, guests, and the poor. The cellarer is entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing all aspects of the monastery with diligence and reverence, treating everything as sacred. St. Benedict reminds the cellarer to act with moderation, neither hoarding nor wasting resources, but managing them wisely in accordance with the Abbot's guidance.

Transcript

As cellarer of the monastery
let there be chosen from the community
one who is wise, of mature character, sober,
not a great eater, not haughty, not excitable,
not offensive, not slow, not wasteful,
but a God-fearing man
who may be like a father to the whole community.
Let him have charge of everything.
He shall do nothing without the Abbot's orders,
but keep to his instructions.
Let him not vex the brethren.

If any brother happens to make some unreasonable demand of him, instead of vexing the brother with a contemptuous refusal he should humbly give the reason for denying the improper request. Let him keep guard over his own soul, mindful always of the Apostle's saying that "he who has ministered well will acquire for himself a good standing" (1 Tim. 3:13). Let him take the greatest care of the sick, of children, of guests and of the poor, knowing without doubt that he will have to render an account for all these on the Day of Judgment. Let him regard all the utensils of the monastery and its whole property as if they were the sacred vessels of the altar. Let him not think that he may neglect anything. He should be neither a miser nor a prodigal and squanderer of the monastery's substance, but should do all things with measure and in accordance with the Abbot's instructions.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/st-benedict-of-nursia/as-cellarer-of-the-monastery/>

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