

Let the Oratory Be What It Is Called, a Place of Prayer

by St. Benedict of Nursia

St. Benedict emphasizes the oratory as a sacred space dedicated solely to prayer and the importance of maintaining reverence and silence within it.

Scripture: Psalm 51:17, Matthew 6:6, Luke 18:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, James 5:16

Topics: "Sacred Prayer", "Reverent Worship"

Description

St. Benedict of Nursia emphasizes the importance of maintaining the oratory as a sacred place of prayer, free from distractions and misconduct. He instructs that after the Work of God is completed, all should exit in silence to uphold reverence for God, allowing space for private prayer without hindrance. St. Benedict encourages individuals to pray with sincerity, tears, and fervor of heart, highlighting the significance of genuine and heartfelt communication with God. Those who do not approach prayer in this manner are not to remain in the oratory to prevent obstruction to others seeking intimate communion with God.

Transcript

Let the oratory be what it is called, a place of prayer; and let nothing else be done there or kept there. When the Work of God is ended, let all go out in perfect silence, and let reverence for God be observed, so that any sister who may wish to pray privately will not be hindered by another's misconduct. And at other times also, if anyone should want to pray by herself, let her go in simply and pray, not in a loud voice but with tears and fervor of heart. She who does not say her prayers in this way, therefore, shall not be permitted to remain in the oratory when the Work of God is ended, lest another be hindered, as we have said.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/st-benedict-of-nursia/let-the-oratory-be-what-it-is-called-a-place-of-prayer/>

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