



Benedictine Bits

Maur and Placid



You may recognize these names as student apartments on the Saint John's campus, which is correct. However, those apartment buildings were named after two disciples of Benedict, Maur and Placid, who are first introduced in the *Life and Miracles of St. Benedict* by Pope Gregory the Great. After word of Benedict's holiness spread across the land, many men flocked to him and dedicated their lives to the service of God under his influence. Among them were sons of noble families that came to Abbot Benedict to be raised in the monastery and brought up as servants of God. Maur and Placid were two of those children. Both became dedicated students and lifelong followers of Abbot Benedict. They were even with Benedict at his death in the gardens of Monte Cassino, Italy, holding him up toward the heavens as depicted in the sculpture above. The sculpture pays tribute to Benedict and his devoted students in the courtyard of the Abbey of Monte Cassino.

Gregory recounts multiple miracles in which Maur and Placid were involved, the most prominent being how Maur saves Placid from drowning. While fetching water from a lake, Placid fell in and was swept away from shore. From afar, Benedict had a vision of the incident and directs Maur to go save him. Without hesitation, Maur miraculously walks across the water and rescues Placid. After returning to shore, Benedict credits the miracle to Maur's unwavering obedience. We remember Saints Maur and Placid as young disciples of Benedict who persevered in seeking God.