



# Benedictine Bits

## The Raven



Many saints are often depicted with symbols that foretell important stories associated with their lives. When people look at images of Saint Benedict, a raven is one image often portrayed with the saint. The story of Benedict and a raven were first depicted in the book called *The Life and Miracles of St. Benedict* by Pope Gregory the Great. When Benedict lived as a hermit in the wilderness, he often fed a portion of his bread to a raven. This connection resurfaces when Benedict is about to eat poisoned bread offered by an envious priest. While Benedict prayed a blessing over the bread, a raven swooped in and snatched the poisoned bread away. To this day, artists continue to portray images of a raven with Saint Benedict to emphasize the importance of their connection. See how many ravens you can spot in artwork on our campuses.

You will also hear about the raven in an academic sense. Our schools are beginning to implement a new general education program called the Integrations Curriculum. As part of this curriculum, students are required to take a course that integrates a Benedictine perspective into the traditional content of non-theological academic disciplines; this component of the curriculum is called the Benedictine Raven requirement.