

The Medal of St. Benedict.

PART II: The Blessing of the Medal of St. Benedict.

The Medal of St. Benedict must be blessed by a Benedictine Father or by a priest especially authorized. There are three solemn prayers of the church for the blessing of the Medal.

The first prayer is an exorcism of the wicked spirit, to make void his evil influence, with the earnest petition that the Medal be for the welfare of body and soul of the wearer.

The second prayer is a fervent petition and reads as follows:

O Almighty God, the Giver of all good gifts, we humbly beseech Thee, that Thou wouldst bestow through the intercession of the holy Father St. Benedict, Thy blessing upon these Medals, their letters and characters designed by Thee, that all who wear them and strive to perform good works may obtain health of body and soul, the grace of salvation, the indulgences conceded to us, and by the assistance of Thy mercy escape the snares and deceptions of the devil and appear holy and stainless in Thy sight.

The third prayer is very impressive in virtue of the detailed and solemn commemoration of the agony, sufferings and death of our Lord.

After the blessing, the Medals cannot be sold, nor after use, can they be given away, lent or exchanged; otherwise the blessing is lost. Medals must, therefore, be bought before they are blessed; those which are found must be blessed again.

It is easy to see that the solitude and silence necessary for prayer are a trial to our natural inclinations, and our addiction to noise. To live is to act, and when we give no external expression to our activity, - - when we not are in the act of achieving, - - when, conversing with God, we are not engaged in human affairs, we are persuaded that we are doing nothing and that our lives are being wasted!!