



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



Homily for Feast of St. Benet Biscop

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What we know of Saint Benet Biscop comes from the biography of him written by Saint Bede. Bede tells not of a man who loved and served the poor, not a man of heroic virtue or one who loved his enemies or was a great teacher or even one who stayed in his monastery. He tells of one who made several trips to the continent to bring back what he calls “spiritual merchandise” to adorn his monasteries: relics, vestments, sacred vessels, books, pictures, glass makers, cantors to teach the chant. His way of putting his gifts at the service of the Church was to put material riches to work for the spread of the Gospel.

The purpose of pictures and other images in his churches was to show, in St. Bede’s words, “the amiable countenance of Christ and his saints,” and the “benefits of the Lord’s incarnation.” The Gospel is beautiful because it shows us the face of a loving God who took our burdens on himself to liberate us. The Word of God is beautiful because he unites heaven and earth in himself and is therefore the source of true peace and joy for all. We can learn from St. Benet to love the beauty of the Word made flesh and with enthusiasm and commitment to show it to the people of our day, so that in all things, in every thought and activity, God may be glorified.