

Summary:

OTEC ZÁPADNÍHO MNIŠŤTVÍ BENEDIKT Z NURSIE

FATHER OF WESTERN MONASTICISM

ST. BENEDICT OF NURSIA

TEREZIE VALOVÁ

The thesis deals with the “father of western monasticism” Benedict of Nursia. The introductory part describes the period, which preceded Benedict's time and it briefly shows early incentives that led to origin of Christian monasticism. The basis was ascetic practice applied by individuals or groups outside Christian community that got among Christians in early church fast and anchored in originating monasticism as an important aspect of monastic way of life.

The key part of the thesis is Benedict's life, witness of which Pope Gregory I wrote in his Dialogues in the 6th century. The thesis describes a part of legendary Gregory's stories of Benedict's life that played a decisive role in Benedict's life journey and show a man who was religious, strong in virtues, open in love, devoted to God and imbued with the spirit of all the just.

The final part of the thesis gets to Benedict's legacy that Benedict and it refers to the rarity of his spirituality, which reflected even in ordinary aspects of human life and even today it can say a lot not only to competent servants of God among monks but also to persons outside such groups and it can also serve as inspiration for secular world.

Initial literature for the thesis was the sources by Czech and foreign authors that deal with the history of monasticism, the second book of Dialogues by Pope Gregory I and Benedict's monastic rule.