

St Benedict, Patron of Europe (Abbot)

Saint Benedict of Nursia, also spelled Norcia, (born c. 480 CE, Nursia [Italy]—died c. 547, Monte Cassino; founder of the Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino and father of Western monasticism; the Rule that he established became the norm for monastic living throughout Europe. In 1964, in view of the work of monks following the Benedictine Rule in the evangelisation and civilisation of so many European countries in the Middle Ages, Pope Paul VI proclaimed him the Patron Saint of all Europe.