

St. Benedict

St. Benedict, founder of the Benedictine Order, is considered the father of western monasticism for his rule became the standard for monastic living throughout the western world. He is shown here with the cave near Subacio where he spent three years as a hermit. During this time he rolled in thorn bushes, also pictured, to conquer temptation. He is holding bread and a gourd of water for the poor. He is said to have prayed and found water when his monks had difficulty finding it, so a spring is shown at right. He is often pictured with a raven who St. Gregory claimed carried off a poisoned loaf intended for St. Benedict by a jealous rival priest Florentius.

In 1876, Benedictine monks from Atchison worked to establish a priory in Clark County north of Ashland. This “Christian Fort,” known as Monte Casino, was located on a military road between Camp Supply in Indian Territory and Fort Dodge. These monks ministered to soldiers as well as the cowboys driving cattle to Dodge City. Another Benedictine, Father Ferdinand Wolf, was stationed at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Windthorst from 1878 to 1881. He served a mission district that was 200 miles long and 130 miles wide. In recent times, Benedictine Fathers have served in several parish assignments.

