

Saint Benedict Joseph Labre

Patron of those suffering from mental illness. Many have said that holiness has a bit of madness in the eyes of the world. This would certainly have been said of Benedict Joseph Labre during his life. He lived for many years as one cast out. Although he tried three times to enter various monasteries, the monks felt that he did not have a vocation. They were kind to him, but concerned about his lack of stability and propensity to wander. Benedict continued to persevere in seeking holiness.

Considered eccentric, he spent most of his life somewhat removed from the world, living as a constant pilgrim and traveler. Many who suffer mental or emotional disorders feel unable to connect with the world and the people they come in contact with. For this reason, Saint Benedict Joseph Labre is a perfect saint for those who suffer from “illnesses of the human mind.”

His story: Read EWTN’s in-depth biography. (It’s worth reading the whole story to get a true understanding of his profound life.)

For more on Saint Benedict Joseph Labre, visit the Guild of Saint Benedict Joseph Labre: Spiritual Support for all Brain Disorders

Feast day: April 16



Prayer to Saint Benedict Joseph Labre.

St. Benedict Joseph Labre, you gave up honor, money and home for love of Jesus. Help us to set our hearts on Jesus and not on the things of this world. You lived in obscurity among the poor in the streets. Enable us to see Jesus in our poor brothers and sisters and not judge by appearances. Make us realize that in helping them we are helping Jesus. Show us how to befriend them and not pass them by. St. Benedict Joseph Labre, you had a great love for prayer. Obtain for us the grace of persevering prayer, especially adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. St. Benedict Joseph Labre, poor in the eyes of men but rich in the eyes of God, pray for us. Amen.