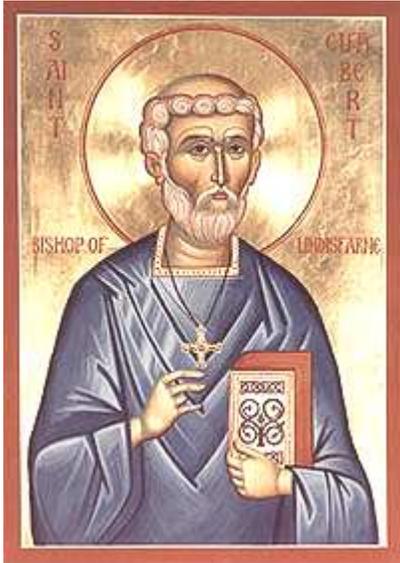


Saint Cuthbert

*HIS LAST INSTRUCTIONS TO THE BRETHREN
CHAPTER XXXIX From Bede's Eccliaſtical History*

" I WENT in to him about the ninth hour of the day, and found him lying in one corner of his oratory before the altar. I took my seat by his side, but he ſpoke very little, for the weight of his ſuffering prevented him from ſpeaking much. But when I earnestly asked him what laſt diſcourſe and valedictory ſalutation he would bequeath to the brethren, he began to make a few ſtrong admonitions reſpecting peace and humility, and told me to beware of thoſe perſons who ſtrove againſt theſe virtues, and would not practiſe them. ' Have peace,' ſaid he, ' and Divine charity ever amongſt you: and when you are called upon to deliberate on your condition, ſee that you be unanimous in council. Let concord be mutual between you and other ſervants of Chriſt; and do not deſpiſe others who belong to the faith and come to you for hoſpitality, but admit them familiarly and kindly; and when you have entertained them, ſpeed them on their journey: by no means eſteeming yourſelves better than the reſt of thoſe who partake of the ſame faith



and mode of life. But have no communion with thoſe who err from the unity of the Catholic faith, either by keeping Eaſter at an improper time, or by their perverſe life. And know and remember, that, if of two evils you are compelled to chooſe one, I would rather that you ſhould take up my bones, and leave theſe places, to reſide wherever God may ſend you, than conſent in any way to the wickedneſs of ſchiſmatics, and ſo place a yoke upon your necks. Study diligently, and carefully obſerve the Catholic rules of the Fathers, and practiſe with zeal thoſe inſtitutes of the monaſtic life which it has pleaſed God to deliver to you through my miniſtry. For I know, that, although during my life ſome have deſpiſed me, yet after my death you will ſee what ſort of man I was, and that my doctrine was by no means worthy of contempt. '

" Theſe words, and ſuch as theſe, the man of God delivered to us at intervals, for, as we before ſaid, the violence of his complaint had taken from him the power of ſpeaking much at once. He then ſpent the reſt of the day until the evening in the expectation of future happineſs; to which he added this alſo, that he ſpent the night in watchfulneſs and prayer. When his hour of evening ſervice was come, he received from me the bleſſed ſacrament, and thus ſtrengthened himſelf for his departure, which he now knew to be at hand, by partaking of the body and blood of Chriſt; and when he had lifted up his eyes to heaven, and ſtretched out his hands above him, his ſoul, intent upon heavenly praiſes, ſped his way to the joys of the heavenly kingdom.