

February 10

St. Scholastica

480–543 • Italy

In the year 480 in Nursia, Italy, twins were born—a girl named Scholastica and a boy named Benedict. The twins grew up together, played together, and loved to talk about the same things. But they also shared something even more important in common. Both were destined to become great saints.

When Benedict was old enough, he went to study in Rome, and Scholastica stayed at home. She missed her brother terribly, but she also knew that she was where God wanted her to be. She knew that He wished her to be His in a special way. Benedict founded a monastery called Monte Cassino, and Scholastica felt called to follow a similar path as her twin brother. So she founded a convent only five miles away from Monte Cassino. Once a year, Scholastica and Benedict would meet at a nearby farmhouse and spend the day talking about what was most precious in their hearts: their love for God.

One day, Scholastica sensed that her time of death was near. She and her brother met at the farmhouse and spent the day talking. When it was time for Benedict to leave, Scholastica begged him to stay longer. Benedict insisted that he must go. He was a monk and had to follow certain rules. He could not spend the night away from his monastery. But Scholastica knew that this was the last time she would see her brother, so she offered a heartfelt prayer to God. All of a sudden, lightning flashed and heavy rain poured from the sky. God had listened to Scholastica's prayer and sent a powerful thunderstorm, making it impossible for Benedict to leave.

"Sister, what have you done?" Benedict cried. He was afraid that breaking the monastery rules would be going against God's will.

"I asked a favor of you and you refused. I asked it of God, and He granted it," she replied.

Then Benedict understood that God loved his sister very much, and He wished Benedict to stay as a special gift to her. They spent the entire night talking about the things of God. The next morning, Benedict returned to his monastery. Three days later, he was praying and saw a shining, white dove rising up to heaven. He knew that the dove was his sister's soul and that she had died and gone to heaven. Benedict had her body brought to the monastery and buried her in the tomb he had prepared for himself. St. Scholastica, help me to trust that God always hears my prayers!



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