

Saint Scholastica

born circa 480, Nursia, Italy
died 547, Monte Cassino, Italy

Like many of the great saints, Scholastica would not take no for an answer. Her twin brother Benedict, learned that the hard way when God overruled him and let Scholastica have her way.

Born into a wealthy Christian family, Scholastic was educated at home and consecrated to God at an early age. Meanwhile, her brother spent years on a spiritual journey that ended at Monte Cassino, where he established his monastery. Scholastica built a convent nearby, but Benedict's Rule allowed them to see each other only once a year. They would meet at a small cabin outside Monte Cassino. On one such occasion, as night approached and Benedict prepared to leave, Scholastica begged him to stay a little longer. He refused because he had to set an example to the other monks. Scholastica turned to God and prayed, flooding her table with tears. Suddenly there was a clap of thunder followed by rain, lightning, and thunder so intense that Benedict dared not step outside. He demanded to know what Scholastica had done. *"I prayed to you, and you wouldn't listen,"* she said. *"Then I prayed to God and he heard me. Go now, if you can, and send me away and return to your monastery."*

Of course, Benedict could not ignore the will of God and was forced to stay.

The Genius of Scholastica:

Scholastica had the power to do more because she loved more, and because she was not afraid to ask for God's help.

Reflection:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives to all generations and ungrudging, and he will be given it. But he should ask in faith, not doubting for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed about by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord, since he is a man of two minds, unstable in all his ways."

James 1.5-8