

THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

(33) Prayed Up a Storm

[adapted by Deacon Roy Goetz, from [The Dialogues, Book II](#) by [St. Gregory the Great](#)]



This story centers on the relationship of Benedict with his twin sister, [Scholastica](#). Scholastica had been dedicated to the consecrated life since childhood. Benedict was in the habit of meeting her once a year at a house outside the monastery gates. On this particular occasion, he and several of his monks had spent the day visiting with Scholastica, praying and talking about the spiritual life. Late in the day they shared the evening meal and continued to talk late into the night. The holy nun said to her brother, “Do not leave me tonight. Let us continue talking until morning.” Benedict replied, “Sister, what are you saying? You know I cannot spend the entire night away from the monastery.” The sky was perfectly clear at the time. When Benedict refused her request, Scholastica lowered her head in prayer. When she looked up, there was a sudden burst of lightning and a violent storm descended on the house, making it impossible for Benedict and his monks to leave. Benedict complained bitterly, “God forgive you sister. What have you done?” Scholastica simply replied, “When I appealed to you, you would not listen. So I turned to God, and he heard my prayer. Leave now if you can. Leave now and go back to your monastery.” This of course, he could not do. Despite his reluctance, they spent the

remainder of the night sharing insights about the spiritual life. In the morning Benedict returned to his monastery and Scholastica to her convent. Benedict did not know this would be the last time he would see his sister in this life.

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