



BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF CHICAGO

Feast of St. Scholastica
February 10, 2026
Sr. Mary Susan Remsgar

Sg 8: 6-7
Ps 148: 1-2, 11-13, 13-14
Lk 10: 38-42

Our scriptural readings for today's liturgical celebration on this Feast of St. Scholastica speak of true love, vulnerability, and relational presence, both human and divine. How fitting this is as we honor St. Scholastica who shows us the power of true love.

The first reading from the Song of Songs is a collection of love lyrics which present the portrayal of ideal human love, characterized between a bride and her bridegroom. This love is also interpreted as reflective of the mutual love between God and the Church, between God and ourselves. Such love is passionate, intense, like fire, undeterred by deep waters. It is priceless and stronger than death and the grave. It is true, pure, and eternal.

In Paul's second letter to the Church of Corinth, Paul speaks of his relationship to God, who has authorized him to teach, inspire, and lead the Corinthians into a loving relationship with Christ. Paul uses the marital image of the bride and bridegroom when he speaks of betrothing the Corinthians to Christ. Paul makes himself vulnerable to the Corinthians when he admits his fear that they may be led astray by false apostles who are speaking on their own behalf rather than on God's authority. Paul is asking the Corinthians to trust him – as he has placed his trust in God – to speak God's truth to them. Paul demonstrates courage and perseverance.

Luke's Gospel presents us with the familiar story of Martha and Mary, in which we get a glimpse of their relationship with one another and with Jesus. What we notice is that the relationships are honest and direct, yet tender and loving. Jesus allows himself to be vulnerable with Martha and Mary by sharing his deepest desire with them. Jesus affirms that what he most treasures – and what is most precious to him – is who they are and their mutual bond of love with him. We know that such love in God and from God is given to be shared with others, as Martha was doing in serving Jesus, and as we are called to do. Martha just seemed to get a little too caught up in doing *for* Jesus, rather than being *with* Jesus. God calls us to balance our time being in His presence and in the presence of those we are sent to love and serve.

Today, as we remember and thank God for Saint Scholastica, we recall, once again this other familiar story of Scholastica and Benedict. We know that these two twins had a very special and close bond with one another. They both committed themselves to the monastic way of life in which each one lovingly served their respective communities as abbess and abbot. They loved one another, their communities, and their God.

We know that at the time of their last meeting together Scholastica had asked Benedict to remain through the night so they could continue their spiritual conversation. In doing this, Scholastica really showed her vulnerability, her need of her brother. We do not know if Scholastica had a sense of her impending death or not, but that night she needed the loving presence of her dear brother. Benedict refused to meet her need because of the monastic rule that he must return to his monastery. In trust, Scholastica turned to God and prayed for God's help. And a sudden storm was God's answer to her

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prayer, which prevented Benedict from returning to his monastery. Benedict still did not seem to get it, as he upbraided his sister for what she had done. Nevertheless, God saw to it that Benedict remained present to her as she had requested.

I have wondered how that experience may have changed, or possibly transformed Benedict, when three days later his sister Scholastica died and he saw her soul ascending to heaven in the form of a dove. Likely, he was most grateful to God for answering Scholastica's prayer and blessing him with the gift of their last earthly meeting together before God took Scholastica to himself. Benedict had Scholastica buried in his own grave so that, as their minds and hearts were united in God, their bodies were not separated, even in the grave. That seems to say something about Benedict that besides being loving siblings, they were also soulmates. And I even wonder if that wasn't Benedict's way of giving some reparation to Scholastica.

What is it that enables Scholastica to love more, as St. Gregory says of her in his dialogues. What will enable us to do as she did? Through the intercession of St. Scholastica, may we grow in ever closer, deeper, trusting relationship with God, believing in the power of friendship with God and in the power of prayer. May we not be afraid to be vulnerable, to be compassionate with ourselves and with others, to be receptive to the gift of soul friendship. May we be ever grateful for the call of God to share true love, His love, with our world, our church, our families, and our Benedictine community. And... May Scholastica always be our source of inspiration, motivation, and dedication to persevere in the way of true love. May it be so. Amen.