**St. Scholastica: Let It Rain**

Let it rain! Today is St. Scholastica’s Feast Day! Who was Saint Scholastica? St. Benedict’s twin sister! Could you imagine a family with saints for siblings? They were both born in Nursia, Italy around 480. This morning’s rain reminds me of a story about our dear twins.

Benedict and Scholastica were the heads of their monasteries (Abbot and Abbess). Once a year they would hike through the hills to meet each other. The last time they met, they talked and laughed together until evening. At one point Benedict stood up and announced that it was time for him to return to his monastery. The community had a rule that said monks must return for evening prayers and sleep inside the cloister. Scholastica asked Benedict to stay, then urged him. Benedict said goodbye and turned toward the door. Scholastica bowed her head and clasped her hands in prayer. Tears rolled down her face. Just then the clear sky shouted, CRACK, BOOM, WHOOSH! A thunderstorm began! Benedict turned to Scholastica and realized her prayer for rain was answered. He dropped his worry and stayed with his sister. They shared stories and recounting memories, even spent hours in communal prayer. This was the last time Benedict saw Scholastica alive. Those extra moments together were well worth it. Yes, this is a legend but there may be truth in the story.

I see truth in Benedict’s struggle to decide between following rules (returning to the monastery) and following his heart (spending the last evening with his sister). Sometimes we don’t take the extra moment to think about what is important when we are rushing through our daily routine or following “to do” lists. Yes, Benedict was a saint, but he was still a human who struggled with life decisions.

Today we honor St. Scholastica who was a strong and faithful woman. May be all discern life’s difficult moments and faithfully follow our hearts. Grant us courage. Grant us peace.