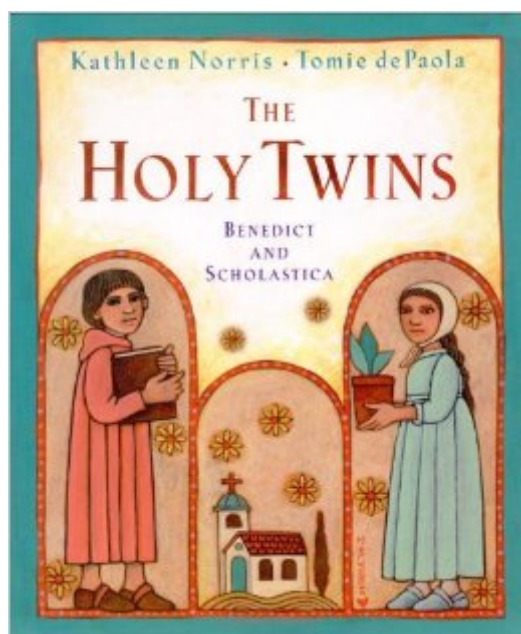


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The Holy Twins: Benedict And Scholastica



Synopsis

Kathleen Norris, acclaimed author of *The Cloister Walk*, offers a moving text to accompany beloved artist Tomie dePaola's strikingly beautiful frescolike paintings in the dramatic and inspiring story of two miraculous, yet very human siblings. The twins, Benedict and Scholastica, grew up as lively best friends in northern Italy, but their paths diverged when it became time for them to enter adulthood. Benedict's life was filled with dramatic moments and miracles as he grew into an important spiritual leader. Scholastica lived a quieter life, but she remained a strong influence on her brother as he developed the Rule of St. Benedict, which guides the Benedictine order to this day.

Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Putnam Juvenile; 1st edition (September 10, 2001)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.5 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #255,250 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Religious](#) #351 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Biographies > Saints](#) #777 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian](#)

Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: 1 and up

Customer Reviews

I read my first Kathleen Norris book, "Dakota: A Spiritual Geography", in a Humanities class in 1996. Little did I know then that the adept writer would pop up later in my life with the book, "The Holy Twins". Examining the lives of St. Benedict and Scholastica from childhood to their deaths, the book is a careful examination of the path to spiritual enlightenment. To me, this book falls firmly into the category of picture-books-for-adults. The book is a spiritual journey, one that could easily bore children but that contains enough life and verve within its pages to retain interest amongst the older crowd. Illustrated by Tomie de Paola, the book is also bound to garner some interest amongst the "Strega Nona" fans as well. The story follows the twins, Benedict and Scholastica. As children they played together in the hills of northern Italy. As time passed, however, they were separated and

went their different ways. Scholastica joined a convent and Benedict studied, eventually becoming a holy man of sorts. The book mostly examines Benedict and his life, from one near poisoning to another. When the siblings are united their personalities haven't changed much since their days as children and they still react to one another similarly. In the end, Scholastica is the first to pass away and Benedict decrees that he be buried with his twin when he too dies. An author's note at the end (also accompanied by de Paola's illustrations) explains the rule of St. Benedict and gives some additional information about how Benedict influenced monasteries for centuries to come. As I mentioned before, I personally can't see the little ones put to bed with this as their bedtime story.

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