

Feast of St. Scholastica

February 10, 2021

Reflection by Prioress Sister Judith Murphy, OSB

Song of Songs 8:6-7; 2 Corinthians 10:17-11:2; Luke 10:38-42

As we were coming in to this week, //I felt things were somewhat conflated:// was I preparing reflections for a funeral? // Or, for a feast day? And// in preparing for our Chapter meeting this coming Sunday, I had thoughts about our legacy: wondering, what will last of us// after each and all of us are gone?

Benedict tells us to keep death daily before our eyes; //and our God seems to be taking care of that for us these days,// and in these times.

Today we celebrate the feast of Scholastica: What do we know of St. Scholastica? Lynn McKenzie's greetings for all in the Federation of St. Scholastica today// includes a meditation by a Spanish Abbess friend of Lynn's //who broaches the subject of whether Scholastica really existed, apart from the story told by St Gregory in the Dialogues. That reminded me of something Father Paschal Botz at St John's said: He said Benedict and Scholastica were twins,// identical twins,// especially Scholastica!

What do we celebrate in St. Scholastica? Does she represent a feminine face on Benedictine monasticism?// and for Christian discipleship? We too are feminine and we are here// and hopefully we represent a feminine face for Benedictine monasticism// and for Christian discipleship, as well.

I think there are many, many alumnae of our schools here and in Canon City and our other schools as well, who think that from knowing us// they have a pretty good idea of what St. Scholastica stands for. They know what they experienced with us in their days with us. And, when they talk about it, it often has something to do with community... what// and how// they carry with themselves that *something* about community// and how it figures into their own work and valuing relationship with other people,// and about having an interest in something or someone beyond themselves,// and about hospitality.

Speaking about hospitality—hospitality to guests and to one another,...that is on public view in our day to day lives, // on view to those who visit us, and who work among us. It is noticed and experienced.

Since Sister Mariella's death on Sunday, several people have commented about how wholeheartedly she and Sister Victoria each entered into our community—how hospitable each of them was to us. //

And so, on this feast of St. Scholastica, I wish you and us a blessed and gracious feast day // and a happy time of celebration for us together. Let us thank God for this community // for those who went before us // and for our sense of community, // and let us be grateful too for the community of God with humanity in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ //

May we and our church -- locally and universally // be a sign that persons from diverse backgrounds // and varied experiences and ethnicities // can live together in peace, and grow and prosper from our interactions with one another and our mutual support Happy Feast Day.