

Bendiciones Diarias: Oraciones para Ninas (Daily Blessings: Prayers For Children)

Beth Harrison Schneider, Compiler

Beth Harrison Schneider, Illustrator

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It seems as though children are always talking in sing-songs of poetry. They vocalize their own inventions, or things they've heard from someone else or found in books. Their verses can be made up of nonsense words that just sound good together (that sometimes only they can understand) or they can be simple little songs and prayers.

In this book, the editor has gathered fourteen short, rhyming, rhythmic prayers, and illustrated them with bright, beautiful colored-pencil sketches, creating an entertaining bilingual book for children (in English and Spanish). Each two-page spread shows the prayer on one side in both languages, with pictures opposite.

The illustrations are reminiscent of the chalk drawings that one sees on sidewalks at art fairs—the colors are bright, yet the drawings are sketchy. They depict small children engaged in activities that correspond with the prayers, which deal with everything from blessing the meal, to getting to know God, to helping others.

Schneider's career has centered on her art. She attended Layton School of Art in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and worked for Display Corporation as a commercial artist there. She has taught art to children in kindergarten through fifth grade in Fort Lauderdale. She currently lives with her family among the Blue Ridge Mountains, where she cooks, quilts, and illustrates children's books.

Schneider has compiled a charming book of prayers that will be easy for children to remember. Some are as short as one line: "Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let Thy gifts to us be blest," "Por favor Dios se nuestro invitado y bendice los alimentos que vamos a comer," while the longest is the Lord's Prayer. Many of them simply ask for help in everyday life, like: "Help me to share with others, that which I receive; gladly give with happy heart, to help in every need," "Ayadame a compartir con otros. Lo que recibo con gusto tambien dar?, para ayudar en cualquier necesidad."

This book is easy to read and understand, with beautiful artwork that is sure to entertain the eye.

JENNIFER GRIFFIN (November / December 2002)

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