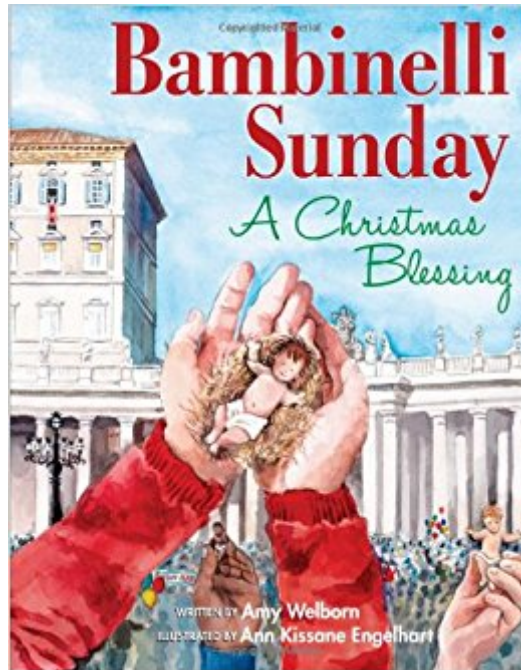




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Bambinelli Sunday: A Christmas Blessing



Synopsis

Alessandro is staying with his grandparents, who run a small shop that sells figures for the presepe (Nativity scene), while his parents look for work in another country. To help with the boy's loneliness, his grandfather encourages Alessandro to make his own figure of the baby Jesus. They will bring that figure to Rome in two weeks to have it blessed by the Holy Father on Bambinelli Sunday. Through the events that occur in the time leading up to receiving the blessing in St. Peter's Square, Alessandro comes to see his world in a new way, and receives the best surprise of all in the end. This book for children ages 7-10 tells a wonderful story about sharing, comfort, generosity, and forgiveness through the lens of a long-standing Italian tradition. The beautiful illustrations and timeless story make this a treasure Advent and Christmas resource for generations to come.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Franciscan Media (August 2, 2013)

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #742,539 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Holidays & Celebrations #428 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Holidays > Christmas #493 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 2

Customer Reviews

Amy Welborn's *Bambinelli Sunday: A Christmas Blessing* is surely destined to become a classic. Combining compelling prose, a gripping plot, and artwork so lovely you'll want to hang it in your home, Amy's story is one you'll want to share with your family time and again. *Bambinelli Sunday* deserves to be enjoyed all year long. —Lisa M. Hendey, founder of CatholicMom.com and author of *A Book of Saints for Catholic Moms* This charming story, delightfully illustrated, introduces readers to a wonderful Italian tradition that takes place on the Third Sunday of Advent — when

children from around the world gather in the piazza of St. Peter's to present their Baby Jesus to the Pope for his special blessing. Amy Welborn's beautiful story has inspired me to begin a new Christmas tradition in my own home!

•Elizabeth Ficocelli, author of *The Imitation of Christ for Children*
Bambinelli Sunday tells a Christmas tale of a lonely little boy who finds joy in his family and in sharing the baby Jesus with others. Beautifully illustrated scenes of water-colored Italian streets will keep the attention of little readers, and the Christian lesson is appropriate for all ages.

• Regina Lordan, Inland Register

Amy Welborn is the author of many books on spirituality, catechesis and apologetics. She has been published in *The New York Times*, *First Things* and *Commonweal*. She is a regular contributor to the *Living Faith* quarterly devotional. Her books for children include *The Loyola Kids' Book of Saints*, *Friendship with Jesus*, *Be Saints!* and *A Child's Book of Psalms*. Her most recent book is the memoir, *Wish You Were Here: Travels Through Loss and Hope*.

Ann Kissane Engelhart is a watercolor artist, illustrator and educator. She has worked with Amy Welborn to produce the children's books *Friendship with Jesus* and *Be Saints!* and *The Dirt Maker* with author, Linda Krisch. Her portraits, still-life and landscape paintings are featured in galleries and private collections. She lives in New York with her husband and children.

I love this book! Since I collect nativity sets, it is totally interesting to me. Since I have grandchildren, they are going to receive this book for Christmas. The artwork is lovely, the message is important, and the lovely blessing from the Pope is a true blessing for each and everyone.

A lovely telling of a loving Italian tradition that Pope Benedict made more public. If you had a crèche growing up, you'll enjoy this book. Last Christmas we had all of our grandchildren bring the Baby Jesus (Bambinelli) from their house to ours and we had a prayer and a blessing on Bambinelli Sunday. And we are not even Italian!

This was an excellent story about an event that takes place in Italy every year before Christmas. Since our family is of Italian origin the use of Italian words and expressions was a teaching moment for me. The ethical and moral references were appropriate for a story about Christmas. The story allowed us to talk about the country, its customs, language, the Pope and the significance of blessings.

I have 4 kids (8, 6, 4, & 2) and all of them love this story! We went to Rome last Christmas for my brother's priestly ordination & got to see the Pope and Italy! The pictures & story brought our trip to life again for them... the pix are very beautifully drawn and the story is easy to read to kids. I highly recommend this book!

What a beautiful Christmas story and I love it even more because I am of Italian heritage.

This is an adorable, surprisingly well written story. My son (age 7) and I have very much enjoyed reading this as we prepare for Christmas.

Love it! The illustrations are AMAZING!! What a beautiful story, such a blessing to share with children of ALL ages!!! A beautiful gift to be given at Thanksgiving to help prepare for Christmas!

Very nice story. Even my 3 year old granddaughter stayed up at bedtime to hear the whole story after she stated that " this book has a lot of words"

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