

Image and Text: The Relationship between the *Golden Legend* Printed by Juan de Burgos (c. 1500) and the High Altarpiece of the Church of San Nicolás in Burgos (c. 1505).

At the turn of the sixteenth century, printed books were becoming more accessible among middle class Castilians, making learning and private devotion more readily available and impacting the content of lay artistic commissions. Addressing the relationship between text and image in Burgos at the turn of the sixteenth century, this paper considers the link between the portrayal of saints on the high altarpiece of the Church of San Nicolás de Bari, a funerary altarpiece commissioned by the merchant Gonzalo López de Polanco, and a printed version of the *Golden Legend* that was produced in Burgos just three years earlier. First, this study examines the eight-scene narrative of the life of St. Nicholas that is at the center of Polanco's altarpiece in terms of its connections to the account of St. Nicholas's life printed in the *Golden Legend*. In doing so, this paper demonstrates that while Polanco was faithful to the printed text in many ways he also departed from it in order to enhance the relevance of the St. Nicholas legend for his family. Likewise, this study also addresses the manner in which St. Nicholas and the saints of the celestial court are depicted on the high altarpiece, relating these to the printed images that are part of the *Golden Legend* and noting significant parallels between the two sets of images that would aid the parishioners of San Nicolás in their devotional practices. By comparing representations of saints on the high altarpiece of the Church of San Nicolás de Bari in Burgos to the portrayals of saints and the stories of their lives from the version of the *Golden Legend* printed in Burgos, this paper demonstrates that Gonzalo López de Polanco was able to not only enhance the religious experience of the parishioners of San Nicolás de Bari by offering certain parallels to the devotional text, but also he was able to highlight his own accomplishments as a pious citizen of Burgos by choosing to emphasize certain details of the legend of St. Nicholas printed in the *Golden Legend* to create a visual narrative that better fit his own personal circumstances.