

"Beguienes"

Mount St Benedict, Erie, PA

- ✓ **October 2023 in Germany for conference on the beguines. Over 600 acknowledged in Germany alone**
- ✓ ***Vita Apostolica: Followers of the Way***
- ✓ ***Begge* – to mumble or speak unclearly**
 - ***Independent women? No man to “protect” them?***
 - ***Women theologians? Biblical scholars***
 - ***To SPEAK IN TONGUES***
- ✓ ***1180’S ONWARD . . . Simultaneous development***
- ✓ ***MARIE D’OIGNIES (d. 1213) ... John the Baptist***
- ✓ **What they were reacting to**
 - Growth in clericalism
 - Social upheaval
 - Dismissal of women
 - Firm believers in the Real Presence, in **part a rejection of devaluing human life**
 - Diverse & often playful **images of God**

Axial ages. Church’s call to reform. New period of radical change of the whole human culture paradigm.

BEGUINE BY ANY OTHER NAME

- ✓ Penitentia / Bizzoche / Mantellate
- ✓ Beata
- ✓ Fins Amans (True Lover)

BEGIJNHOVEN / BEGUINAGES

- ✓ COURT BEGUINAGES

✓ CONVENT BEGUINAGES

HOW THEY IMPACTED THEIR WORLD

- Brilliant business women
- Translated SS into vernacular so followers would understand SS
- Trained young women in danger of sliding into prostitution due to poverty so learned valuable skills
- Educated children
- Pietas and other artwork commissioned

PREACHED (INTERDICT)

✓ the **HOLY FOOL** = Christina the Astonishing d. 1224

✓ d. 1380 Catherine of Siena (mantellate) & Doctor of the Church

⊕ Her visions were written down in the form of a dialogue between she and God

⊕ Yearned for complete unity with God

⊕ Better known example of one whose passion for God called her to challenge corruption (and even “lukewarm-ness” among clergy and religious)

⊕ obedience to the Word of God. And she speaks of the **cell of self-knowledge**. Like the desert ascetics who taught: *Stay in your cell and your cell will teach you everything*. Catherine speaks of the *Cell of your Soul*.

⊕ ministry flows from the depths of her prayer

⊕ her love was incarnate: she secretly gave provisions to poor and destitute people, often in the early hours before others rose from sleep

- For example –

I know you’re going to ask me, since I talk so much about agape love, “but what if I have no such unconditional love in me and no great tenderness (and I don’t), and yet you say without such love I’m powerless; so then, how can I get it?”

I’ll tell you how: Love is only had by loving. So be up and doing. And remember that there’s nothing so difficult and no stronghold so impregnable, that it can’t be broken down (and built up) by Love.

LETTERS

⊕ wants laity to know of God’s deep love for them

⊕ LOVE carries us through hard times & challenges. Keep our hearts focused on love. Deep abiding joy

✓ BY ACTING OUT THE GOSPELS (CHARACTERS)

✓ PASSION PLAYS

○ Elizabeth of Spalbeek d. 1270

✓ PUPPET SHOWS

✓ PURGATORY

○ Lutgard of Aywieres (d. 1246)

ARTWORK

✓ PIETA'S

✓ ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS

✓ PRAYERBOOKS/PSALTERS

LITERATURE

d. 1282 Mechthild of Magdeburg (*Flowing Light of the Godhead*)

⊕ The importance of SOUL to Mechthild & to the beguines

- 'the heart borders on the mystery of God'
- once awakened by the spark of God's love, our heart expands in wonderful & terrifying ways'
- The human heart is its **insatiable longing for God**
- "*The soul is made of love and must ever strive to return to love. Therefore, it can never find rest nor happiness in other things. By its very nature it must seek God, who is love.*"

d. 1309 Angela of Foligno

d. 1300 Hadewijch of Brabant "God's Troubadour"

"Love alone is the only thing that can satisfy us. Nothing else can. And you know that. Love always rewards the one who loves, but I will admit that sometimes Love seems to come all too slowly, at its own snail's pace. You can't hurry it, though, so don't ever let yourself give up on

God and God's love. Remember that Love may come slowly, but you can be sure Love will always arrive right on time. So wait on Love. And God be with you."

LETTERS

- d. 1268 Beatrijs of Nazareth**
- d. 1380 Catherine of Siena**
- d. 1310 Marguerite Porete (*Mirror of Simple Souls*)**
- d. 1510 Catherine of Genoa**

MORE FAMOUS BEGUINES

- d. 1258 Juliana of Mont-Cornillon (Corpus Christi)**
- d. 1254 Clare of Assisi**
- d. 1274 Douceline of Provence
- d. 1237 Margaret of Ypres
- d. 1315 Agnes Blannbekin
- d. 1540 Angela Merici**