

Saint Mechtilde of Hackeborn (or of Helfta)

1240-1298

Saint Mechtilde was born in 1240 in the ancestral castle of Helfta in Saxony. The Von Hackeborn family was one of the most important and noble in Thuringia.

At seven years old, Mechtilde was admitted to become a boarding student at the Benedictine monastery of Rodardsdorf. It is here that her vocation grows and the young woman decides to enter the religious life. In 1258, she meets up with her older sister at Helfta where, three years later, she was entrusted to the care of a nun named Gertrude. Gertrude would be known later in history as St. Gertrude the Great. It is to Gertrude that Mechtilde will later confess her mystic visions. It is from these confessions

Saint Mechtilde received, one was her ability to often see the Angels. The biographers of Saint Mechtilde tell us that when the great Saint was on her deathbed, many witnesses heard as she received visits from the Angels who would sing heavenly songs to comfort her. Shortly before her death, the Saint said that the Angels were there to take her away, inviting her to follow them with these words: "Come, come, mistress and teacher, the delights of Heaven attend to you. Alleluia, Alleluia!" Shortly thereafter, Mechtilde saw



that would be born one of the most notable books from the Medieval mystic: "The Book of Special Grace." She died in the monastery of Helfta in 1298. Amongst the many gifts that

the Lord come towards her accompanied by the Virgin Mary and Saint John the Apostle.