

Blessed Christina von Stommeln

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PURGATORY

The Blessed Christina was born at Stommeln in 1242. At the age of thirteen she entered the Beguine community of Cologne. A great mystic, she had ecstasies and apparitions and in 1269 she received the stigmata, which became visible during certain times of the year. On December 20, 1267 she met Peter of Dacia (+ 1289), a Swedish Dominican friar, student at Cologne, and pupil of Saint Albert the Great, who became her biographer. She had to face numerous attacks of the devil, so much that she was on the verge of suicide. The exterior signs of her mystical experience led her Beguine companions to consider Blessed Christina insane and to send her away. In the year of the death of Peter of Dacia the attacks of the devil ceased and Christina lived in peace until 1312, always wearing the Beguine habit. In 1342 her relics were transferred to Nideggen and since 1568 they lie in the church of Jülich. Her veneration was approved by Saint Pius X, on August 22, 1908. Her memory is celebrated on November 6.

The Carthusian Father Laurentius Surius who died at Cologne in 1578, in his work *De Probatis sanctorum Historiis* published at Cologne in the years 1570-1575, narrates among other things in regard to the Blessed Christina von Stommeln: "When, after her death, the soul of Christina appeared in front of the eternal Judge, He suggested to her to choose whether she wanted to enter immediately into the eternal Glory which she had certainly deserved, or if instead she wanted to return to earth one more time and continue for additional years her life of penance in support of poor souls. What did the Saint do? Without any hesitation she chose the second proposal and immediately the Lord had her come back to life again amid the great astonishment of those who were standing sorrowful around her body and already were thinking about her funeral. Yet the Blessed not only continued in her life of penance as before, but increased even more her already extraordinary penances so much as to almost reach the limit of the incredible."

