

Medieval Women of Faith 3

Spiritual renewal swept across northern Europe in the early 13th century, due in large part to great numbers of women in communities called Beguines, who sought to live simply, giving away their resources to help needy people.

Some Beguines established schools for girls who would otherwise receive no education, teaching them basics of reading, writing, arithmetic and Christian character. Since growing cities had no hospitals to care for the sick and lepers, and no welfare system for the poor and hungry, some Beguine women (laypeople) followed Jesus' command to love others in practical ways, establishing many of the first hospitals.

Thus the term Beguine, while at first pejorative, came to be one of respect and appreciation. Official approval by the Pope and deep spiritual thirst for community led to explosive Beguine growth: In a few decades, in Belgium alone, there were more than ten thousand women living in Beguine communities.



Coffee/tea thought: Thank You, Father, for Your heart of compassion for the needy, expressed through these amazing women. How can I follow their godly example today?

John

Ref: *SEEKING SPIRITUAL INTIMACY - Journeying Deeper with Medieval Women of Faith*, Glenn Myers, IVP (2011)

中世纪信主的妇女3

十三世纪初，属灵的复兴席卷整个北欧，很大一部分缘自贝居安女修会的妇女们，她们愿意过简单的生活，供应有需要的人。

一些贝居安女修会成员为女孩子建立专门的学校，教她们基本的读写，算术和基督的品格。因为城市里没有照顾病人和麻风病人的医院，也没有穷人和饥民的社会保障系统，一些贝居安女修会成员照着耶稣爱人如己的吩咐，建立了医院。

因此贝居安女修会这个称呼，从最开始的贬义，逐渐成为尊称。因着教皇的认可和社会的需要，贝居安女修会飞速成长起来：几十年之内，仅在比利时，有超过一万的妇女生活在贝居安女修会中。

随想：谢谢你，天父，为着你借这些妇女爱那些有需要的人。我当怎样向她们学习？

史建恩