

# Blessed Cristina of Stommeln

1242-1312

*Ever since she was a little child, she enjoyed special attention from Heaven. In 1247 she had a vision of the Baby Jesus and decided then to consecrate her life to God.*

Even though at 12 years old her family wanted to give her away in marriage, the Blessed ran away finding refuge in a Convent of Beguines. When she was 15 she received the stigmata in her hands and feet and the wounds of the crown of thorns on her head. During this period, the devil tempted her with a thousand tricks bringing her all the way to the brink of suicide. The external signs of these experiences made the Beguines believe she was crazy, so they expelled her. The Dominican Peter of Dacia, acted as a Spiritual Father to her, helping her during these assaults that miraculously ceased upon his death, in this way allowing Cristina to live a peaceful life. Cristina died in Cologne in 1312, always wearing the habit of the Beguines. The visions and the ecstasies, together with the attacks of the devil, began when Cristina was 10 years old.

Brother Peter writes that one time Cristina found herself immersed up to her neck in a well without knowing how she could have arrived there. On three occasions, according to an account from her Pastor,

Brother John of Cologne, Satan threw her out of bed and brought her up onto the roof of the house. Another time he abandoned her out on the branch of a tree. The demon also tormented her by affixing incandescent (red-hot) stones into her body, which many testified were able to be touched. He often gave her bites and scratches. Despite all of it, Cristina survived to the age of seventy years dying in the concept of sanctity.

