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Hildegard Of Bingen: Homilies on the Gospels (Cistercian Studies)

Beverly Mayne Kienzle

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Hildegard of Bingen (1098 '1179) describes the virtue of Fortitude teaching the other virtues in the fire of the Holy Spirit. Like Fortitude, Hildegard was enkindled by the Holy Spirit and edified many with her teaching.

Hildegard of Bingen's *Homilies on the Gospels* are here translated for the first time from Latin into English. Hildegard's sisters recorded and preserved her informal preaching in this collection of homilies on twenty-seven gospel pericopes. As teacher and superior to her sisters, Hildegard probably spoke to them in the chapter house, with the scriptural text either before her or recited from memory, according to Benedictine liturgical practice. The *Homilies on the Gospels* prove essential for comprehending the coherent theological Vision that Hildegard constructs throughout her works, including the themes of salvation history, the drama of the individual soul, the struggle of virtues against vices, and the life-giving and animating force of greenness (*uiriditas*). Moreover, the *Homilies on the Gospels* establish Hildegard as the only known female systematic exegete of the Middle Ages.

Beverly Mayne Kienzle, John H. Morison Professor of the Practice in Latin and Romance Languages, Harvard Divinity School, has published several books on medieval sermons and preaching, including Hildegard of Bingen and Her Gospel Homilies *(2009);* Hildegard of Bingen, Expositiones euangeliorum, *coedited with Carolyn Muessig (2007); and* The Sermon: Typologie des sources du moyen a¢ge occidental, *fasc. 81 '83 (2000).*

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