

# The Oldest Vocation

CHRISTIAN MOTHERHOOD  
IN THE MIDDLE AGES



Clarissa W. Atkinson

# The Oldest Vocation

**Marcel A. Müller**



## **The Oldest Vocation:**

**The Oldest Vocation** Clarissa W. Atkinson, 1991 According to an old story a woman concealed her sex and ruled as pope for a few years in the ninth century but her downfall came when she went into labor in the streets of Rome From this myth to the experiences of saints nuns and ordinary women *The Oldest Vocation* brings to life both the richness and the troubling contradictions of Christian motherhood in medieval Europe *The Oldest Vocation* Clarissa W. Atkinson, 2019-03-15 According to an old story a woman concealed her sex and ruled as pope for a few years in the ninth century Pope Joan was not betrayed by a lover or discovered by an enemy her downfall came when she went into labor during a papal procession through the streets of Rome From the myth of Joan to the experiences of saints nuns and ordinary women *The Oldest Vocation* brings to life both the richness and the troubling contradictions of Christian motherhood in medieval Europe After tracing the roots of medieval ideologies of motherhood in early Christianity Clarissa W Atkinson reconstructs the physiological assumptions underlying medieval notions about women s bodies and reproduction inherited from Greek science and popularized through the practice of midwifery these assumptions helped shape common beliefs about what mothers were She then describes the development of spiritual motherhood both as a concept emerging out of monastic ideologies in the early Middle Ages and as a reality in the lives of certain remarkable women Atkinson explores the theological dimensions of medieval motherhood by discussing the cult of the Virgin Mary in twelfth century art story and religious expression She also offers a fascinating new perspective on the women saints of the later Middle Ages many of whom were mothers their lives and cults forged new relationships between maternity and holiness *The Oldest Vocation* concludes where most histories of motherhood begin in early modern Europe when the family was institutionalized as a center of religious and social organization Anyone interested in the status of motherhood or in women s history the cultural history of the Middle Ages or the history of religion will want to read this book **ping**Clarissa W. Atkinson, *The Oldest Vocation* ,2000 **A World of Their Own Making** John R. Gillis, 1997 Discusses ritual events we regard as family traditions and how they must be open to perpetual revision so we can satisfy our human needs and changing circumstances Sanctity and Motherhood Anneke Mulder-Bakker, 2013-05-13 Increasingly recent scholarship has focused on those married women and mothers in the Middle Ages who achieved holiness The Merovingian Waldetrudis and Rictrudis Ida mother of the crusader king Godfrey of Bouillon Elisabeth of Hungary and Bridget of Sweden are among them Unlike Mary and her mother Saint Anne mother saints whose sanctity was based on motherhood these female parents were honored despite rather than because of their children They were holy mothers whose status as spouses and mothers gave them a public voice and opened for them the road to sanctification They successfully combined marriage and motherhood with a religious life and functioned as holy women in their community Despite increasing respect tension between the roles of saint and wife persisted Sainly women were not expected to be happily married the ancient prejudice against sexual passion and physical ease mitigated the enjoyment of

married life The book s original essays focus on Northern Europe where the cult of Saint Anne reached its climax around 1500 It does not explore Church doctrine and theology as other studies do but examines the religious experience of historical holy mothers and saints and how these women were perceived by their communities and their biographers *The Virgin Mary in the Perceptions of Women* Joelle Mellon,2008-04-10 Once the Virgin Mary was a pivotal element of Christianity a holy figure at the heart of most Christians spiritual lives She was invoked at all major life passages baptisms weddings childbirths and funerals and images of the Virgin Mary could be found virtually anywhere from pub signs to sacred texts Medieval women especially looked to Mary to answer their prayers be their role model and serve as their advocate in heaven They prayed to her several times a day and sometimes devoted their entire lives to her service This book investigates perceptions of the Virgin Mary through several centuries of literature Focusing especially on the depictions of the Virgin Mary in medieval and Renaissance manuscripts the author rediscovers a time when the Divine Female was very much in evidence and good Christian women were taught to pray to a Holy Mother Topics include the cyclical popularity of Virgin Mary devotional objects such as Books of Hours rosaries and Marian gardens the mystical qualities attributed to the Virgin Mary through centuries of reported divine visions the historical relationships between the Virgin Mary and other religious figures including the Devil and Mary Magdalene as an alternative to the Virgin Mary as a feminine model *Authority and the Female Body in the Writings of Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe* Liz Herbert McAvoy,2004 The three archetypal representations of woman in the middle ages as mother as whore and as wise woman are all clearly present in the writings of Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe in examining the ways in which both writers make use of these female categories Dr McAvoy establishes the extent of their success in resolving the tension between society s expectations of them and their own lived experiences as women and writers Jacket *Education and Vocations: Principles and Problems of Vocational Education* Theodore Hildreth Eaton,1926 **American Builder** ,1926 Southwest Builder and Contractor ,1925 **Vocations Within the Church** Leonidas Wakefield Crawford,1920 **The British Journal of Psychology** ,1921 **History of Dearborn County, Indiana** Archibald Shaw,1915 *Vocations for Boys: The machinist* Vocation Bureau of Boston,Vocation bureau, Boston,1912 *Artibus Et Historiae* ,1980 *An Introduction to Vocational Education* Arthur Beverly Mays,1930 **Annual Report of the City Superintendent of Schools to the Board of Education for the Year Ending ...** New York (N.Y.). Superintendent of Schools,1909 ... *Annual Report of the State Board of Agriculture, Made to the General Assembly at Its ... Session, ...* Rhode Island. Board of Agriculture,1887 **Annual Report** Connecticut. State Board of Agriculture,1886 **Annual Report of the Secretary of the Connecticut Board of Agriculture** Connecticut. State Board of Agriculture,1886 Report for 1898 has Appendix Condensed index of reports of Connecticut Board of Agriculture 1866 1898

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