

Gild Sisters in Medieval Liturgical Intercessions. *Documentation*

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Introduction

Women members of religious guilds (“gild sisters” using an older spelling convention) and confraternities are named in a certain number of medieval general intercessions. Excerpts from the general intercessions that name such women are listed here (Table 2). In order to provide additional context, a few excerpts that do not use explicitly feminine language have also been included.

In addition, relevant portions of the statutes of three guilds are given. In the second of these, the names only of female guild members are noted here (Table 1).

Sources. These excerpts are taken from a body of medieval general intercessions collected by the present writer. These are listed, together with their sources, in a separate document also posted on this website: *Medieval General Intercessions: Bibliography of Texts and Sources*

An introduction to the medieval general intercessions is provided in another document: *Women and the Medieval General Intercessions: Introduction.*

Each text is given a unique designator, e.g., “FR-Lotharingia 10th c.” Designators give the country of origin or equivalent (using modern political-geographic terminology). Thus: RO = Religious Orders; EN = England; FR = France; SP = Spain; GR = Austria, Germany and Switzerland; PO = Poland. They are then numbered, in rough chronological order. The name of a place or person with whom each text is associated is given next, followed by the approximate date of composition.

Spelling is as in sources and editions. Words of interest are in bold face type.

Table 1
Women in Prayers Used at Guild Meetings

Gild of the Holy Trinity, Wygnale, Norfolk

In the worchip of god, and of his modur marie, and specialy of the holi trinite,
in qwose worchip this fraternite is begonne.

Sey a pater noster, and Aue pur charite, and [Latin prayers]

Be-sege we ihesu crist mercy, for the pees, an for the stat of holy chirche, for the pope of
Rome an his Cardinales, &c; vt in Pulpito.

And for alle the gilde bretherun an **sisterun** that this gilde furs begonne, and lengest sal
vp-haldene, says a pater noster....

Also qwat brother or **sustre** die and he may noughte be broughte to the bergdes wyt his
own catelle, he sal be broughte wyt the broderhedes.

EN-8. Wygnale Holy Trinity 1389

Gild of the Assumption, Wyggenale, en Contee de Norffolk

In ye worschipp of Jhesu crist, and of is dere moder seynt mare,
and ye holy feleschipp of heuene,
and specialy of oure lady sent mare of ye assumcion of oure lady,
in wyche fraternite ys be-gunne, in ye ton of Wygenhale,
for to worshippe oure lady.

In ye worschipp of god and of is moder, in a-mendement of oure lyff,
and sauacion of oure saules, and sayes a Pater noster and a aue pur charity.
[Latin prayers]

Be-seke we Jhesu crist mercy, ffor ye state of holy chirche and al yer-to longes.

ffor Also we schal be-seke for oure lord Kyng Richard of yngelond, and for ye **qwene**, and
all ye baronyge, and for alle yat yam longes, yat gyff yam grace to ouer-come ere enmys.
Also we schal be-seke for ye pope of Rome, and ye Patriarcke of Jerusalem, and for alle
holy kirke, aal yat to it longes.

Also we schal be-seke for ye holy lond, yat Jhesu crist, for is mekul mercy, brynge it in to
criste powere.

Also we sal be-seke for ye frutte yt is on ye herthe, yat god send it soche wedurygne yt
may turne cristen men to profyt.

And ffor schipp-men and for al men yat trauayle, be se and be land. And for al yat yis
fraternite first be-gunne, and longes wil vp-hold. And yei to saye a pater noster pur

charity. [Latin prayers]

Also be-seke Jhesu mercy for oure fadere saules, and for oure modere saules..
and for all ye brethire saules and **sisturres** yat to yis fraternitee longes, and maynteynen
in ye worschipp of oure Lady. Says a pater noster.... [Latin prayers]

Cicillia Leman
Angneta Haliward
Asselyn Millener
Beatrix Deye
Isabella Laicy
Cicillia de Tydde
Katerina Witrassse
Margareta Garenelle
[?] Wyntur
Alicia Paschelewe
Alicia Gerard
Angneta Spense
Katerina de Gedney
Alicia Daundy
Elena Williams.

EN-9. Wyngale Assumption 1389

Gild of Cranbone, Wygnale, Norfolk

of In honr of ihesu of heuen, and of his moder seinte marie, an of alle halwen, and specialy
seint Johan the Ewangelist, in qwose worchip this fraternite is be-gunne.
Say a pater noster, pur charite.... [Latin prayers]

Beseche we ihesu crist mercy, for the pees and state of holy chirche, for the pope of
Rome and the cardinals, for the patriak of Jerusalem, and for the stat and pees of holy
chirche: – meinten hem and susten hem;
and for the Archibischope of Canterbury, and the Bischope of Norwyche, and for the
Prioress of Cranbous; and for all the **couent**,
of and for alle Archibischopes, Bisshopes, Abbotes, Priours, and for all men and **wommen**
religion;
and for the kynge and the **qwene**, and al the Comones of this Roialme, vt patet in Pulpito,
&c.

EN-10. Wygnale Cranbone 1389

Table 2

Gild Sisters in General Intercessions Used in Sunday Worship

EN-1. York, 1050

Wutan we begiddan ...for ure gildan 7 **gildsweostran**

[modern English translation]

Let us pray ... for our gild-fellows and **gild-sisters**]

EN-12. Salisbury 15th c

And alle this chirches frendes,oure brethern and **Sustern**, and alle oure parnessens, wyth alle tho that any good dooth to this chirche.

And alle oure Brethern and **System** soules, alle oure parnessens soules.

EN-17. York 1400

And for the bretore and the **sisteris** of seynt William hous of yoork, and of seynt mari hous of Southwell.

EN-23. York 1405

Also you shall pray especially to our lady saint Mary that she become our advocate and that she pray for us specially to her dear son.

And also you shall pray especially for the brothers and the **sisters** of Saint Peter minister of York and of Saint John of Beverley and of Saint Wilfrid of Ripon and for all that you are beholden unto and for all that God would you pray for say a Pater noster and Ave.

EN-27. York 1440

We shall make a special prayer to our lady Saint Mary and to all the fair fellowship that is in heaven for all the brothers and **sisters** of our mother church Saint Peter house of York, Saint John house of Beverly, Saint Wilfrid of Ripon, and Saint Mary of Southwell.

EN-39. Shrewsbury 1484

Ye shall pray also for all ye bredyr and ye **systorys** and ye gud dowers of Sent Chade of lichfield, and Seynt Mary hows of Co'ntry and specyally for all ye bredyr and ye **systores** ty ar in any gyldes ty longys to this parysche.

EN-42. York 1509

Ye shall knele downe devoutly on your knese and make a specyall praer unto our blessed lady saint Mary and to all the felawshyp of heuen, for all the brethren and **sisters** of our moder Chirche, Saynt Peter of Yorke, Saynt John of Beuerlay, Saynt Wilfred of Ryppon, and Saynt Mary of Suthwell

FR-8. Poitiers 1260

Por les confreres. Enapres, faisons proiere a Nostre Seigneur Jesu Crist por toz les conferes

et les **confrasses** de Nostre-Dame-Sainte-Marie et por ceaus de Saint-Nicolas et por ceaus et **celes** qui en ceste yglise en l'enor de Deu et de Nostre Dame les soes festez font et festivent et por ceaus et celes qui ceens aportent lors oblacions et lor lumineres....

FR-24. Provins Saint Quirrance 1400

Priez pour les confrères de l'église de céans

FR-26. Paris 1449

pour tous les frères et **seurs** des confrairies de ceste eglise et de toutes aultres

FR-30. Argenton 1493

Pour ceulx qui maintiennent les confréries.