

RELIGION | HISTORY
MAPPING THE TRADITION
SERIES EDITOR: PAUL ROREM

“This exciting study of Hildegard of Bingen . . . provides a compelling general introduction for new readers and insightful scholarship on her homilies for experienced academics. . . Kienzle addresses a wide variety of themes . . . essential to an understanding of the saint’s legacy as an exegete and locates Hildegard’s experience as a preacher and her largely female monastic audience within the medieval preaching tradition. The chapter on Hildegard’s reception advances her legacy as one of the most remarkable women in the history of Christianity.” —**SHERYL A. KUJAWA-HOLBROOK, Claremont School of Theology**

“Particularly welcome is the insightful and balanced discussion of Hildegard’s educational restrictions and opportunities, and of her life-long ‘continuing education.’ Hildegard’s original approach to the homily is shown to lie in the use of the Gospel text to construct parallel narratives that dramatically teach moral and allegorical insights. While Hildegard is indebted to both patristic and medieval interpreters, her homilies are shown to reinforce and deepen the theological vision treated in all her work.” —**WILLIAM T. FLYNN, University of Leeds**

“Kienzle reveals Hildegard as both firmly grounded in the Western Latin theological tradition and an innovative theologian for her own era and today. Written with clarity and elegance, this book is an ideal entry point into Hildegard the theologian for students and scholars.” —**DANIEL JOSLYN-SIEMIATKOSKI, Seminary of the Southwest**

In *Hildegard of Bingen, Gospel Interpreter*, Beverly Mayne Kienzle acquaints readers with Hildegard’s Homilies on the Gospels, a summa of her theology and the culmination of her visionary insight and scriptural knowledge. Part one probes how she became the only known female Gospel interpreter of the Middle Ages. Part two expounds on Hildegard’s homilies, elucidating her creative exegesis. Part three deals with the inspiring legacy of Hildegard’s works, extending from theology to medicine. Hildegard advocates the unifying capacity of nature, “viridity,” decrying human disregard for the earth and lust for power.

BEVERLY MAYNE KIENZLE retired in 2015 as the John H. Morison Professor at Harvard Divinity School and is currently an affiliate of the Harvard Standing Committee on Medieval Studies.

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Cover image: **View from the Entrance to St. Hildegard’s Abbey at Eibingen.**
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Hildegard of Bingen, Gospel Interpreter

Kienzle

Hildegard of Bingen, Gospel Interpreter

Beverly Mayne Kienzle

