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John of Cornillon

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25716/amad-85426>

Lexikonartikel | Article in a reference book, 2022

Empfohlene Zitierweise | Suggested Citation:

Jean-Pierre Delville, John of Cornillon, in: Dictionary of Cistercian Saints, hrsg. von Mirko Breitenstein, Jörg Sonntag und Alkuin Schachenmayr, Frankfurt am Main: AMAD, 2022. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25716/amad-85426>.



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hebis.

John of Cornillon († ca. 1255)

1. Name variants: J. of Mont-Cornillon

2. Places: Cornillon, Liège, Salzennes

3. Biography: J. is known only from the Vita of Saint Juliana of Cornillon (1192–1258). As a young priest working in the hospice of Cornillon at the gates of Liège, he was Juliana's confessor (Vita, II, 42). Around 1240, Juliana, who had become prioress, asked him to edit a liturgical office for the Feast of Corpus Christi. He contributed the hymns, antiphons, and responsories (Vita, II, 9). This office was superseded in 1264 by the office written by Thomas Aquinas at the request of Urban IV on the occasion of the extension of the feast to the universal church. In 1242, J. was appointed prior of the Cornillon house by the bishop of Liege. At that time, the bishop issued new statutes for Cornillon, based on the Rule of Augustine (Vita, 2, 23–24). In 1246, he instituted the Feast of Corpus Christi in his diocese. His successor, Henry of Guelders, dismissed J. from his office as prior. After visiting Juliana in exile at Salzennes near Namur for the last time, J. died and was considered by many to be a saint (Vita, 2, 42). His life's work was closely linked to that of Juliana.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: J.'s body is perhaps buried in Cornillon, where he died.

b. Liturgical commemoration: 1 Jan (CHALEMOT)

c. Patronage: –

d. Attributes: –

5. Fontes: Fête-Dieu (1246–1996), 2: Vie de Ste Julienne de Cornillon, ed. J.–P. DELVILLE, Louvain-la-Neuve 1999; transl. by B. NEWMAN, The Life of Blessed Juliana of Mont-Cornillon, Toronto 1988; C. LAMBOT / I. FRANSEN, L'Office de la Fête-Dieu primitive: Textes et mélodies retrouvés, Maredsous 1946; C. CHALEMOT, Kurze Lebens Verfassung der Heiligen und Seeligen auch Berühmbten Männer deß Heiligen Cistercienser Ordens, 1686.

6. Literature: J. COTTIAUX, L'office liégeois de la Fête-Dieu, in: RHE 58, 1963, 5–81, 405–459; J.-P. DELVILLE, Jean du Mont-Cornillon, in: DHGE 25, Paris 1998, 308–309.

7. Illustrations: 1902 mural painting of Adolphe Tassin, Liège, St. Martin's Basilica, cf. R. REMON, Les peintures murales du chœur, in: Saint-Martin. Mémoire de Liège, Liège 1990, 275–278.

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