



The symbolic parricide of the “Journée du Guichet”

(“Day of the Grille”), the founding event of the Tridentine Reform of the French Cistercians

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [Considérant - Revue du droit imaginé](#)
2022, n° 4. varia

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Abstract: On September 25, 1609, the French abbess Angélique Arnauld refused her parents entry to her abbey. The love/hate relationship between the abbess and her father originated in her childhood. Stories about it relate to the abbess, her relatives, and outsiders. Cutting herself off from her family roots, the abbess then flourished in her monastic vocation. This act illustrates the moral and legal conflict between natural authority and that of the Church. Port-Royal thus became the first abbey of the Reformed Cistercians.

Pages: 109 to 129

Journal: [Journal of Imagined Law](#)

CLIL theme: 3260 -- DROIT -- Droit général

EAN: 9782406129066

ISBN: 978-2-406-12906-6

ISSN: 2729-2177

DOI: 10.48611/isbn.978-2-406-12906-6.p.0109

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 03-09-2022

Periodicity: Annual

Language: French

Keyword: Catholic reform, Port-Royal, Cistercians, nuns, Angélique Arnauld, Jansenism

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