

The Carthusian General Chapter and the Charterhouse of Diest^{*}

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Founded in 1328, the charterhouse of Diest usually appears in the records as *Cartusia Montis Sancti Johannis Baptistae* or *Cartusia Diestensis*.¹ At first affiliated to the Carthusian Province of Burgundy, it belonged to the Province of Picardy from 1332-1380, and after the Great Schism to Remote Picardy from 1411 to 1474, when it was allocated to the Teutonic Province until the general suppression in 1783, after which it belonged briefly to the Province of the Rhine until the final suppression in 1796. Its history has been written in detail in recent years², and in 1999 Jan de Grauwe and Francis Timmermans produced its *Prosopographia*.³ The only source which was not utilised in any detail by the recent historians has been the *Chartae* of the Carthusian General Chapter, which have been in the course of publication since 1982.⁴ We shall deal here only with the dispositions for Diest, as Jan de Grauwe and Francis Timmermans gather-

* Originally published in: F. Timmermans & T. Gaens (eds.), *Magister Bruno. Negen eeuwen uitstraling van de kartuizerorde*, Leuven 2003, 181-208. Revised by the author.

¹ Vallier 1891, 174 gives: *C. Diestensis (Diesthemensis)*. - *C. Montis S^{ti}. Johannis Baptistae - Ch^{ae}. de Mont S^t. Jean-Baptiste*. - *Ch^{ae}. de Zeelhem [Zeelem]*. It is also known as Sint-Jansberg. It was situated in the diocese of Liège (Belgium).

² The *Nouvelle Bibliographie Cartusienne*, prepared by Dom Augustine Devaux and Dom Gabriel van Dijck, with the aid of Jan de Grauwe, has a substantial entry for Diest. Cf. Appendix at the end of this paper. There is a rather good account of the charterhouse by Timmermans 2005.

³ De Grauwe & Timmermans 1999, vol. 1, 341-424.

⁴ They are in the course of being edited as *Analecta Cartusiana* 100. The following volumes do not appear to contain dispositions for Diest: Clark 1991b, Clark 1992a, Clark 1997g, Clark 1998b, Clark 1999b, Clark 2001b, Hogg & Sargent 1982, Sargent & Hogg 1983 – nor is there anything relevant in the *Chartae* in *Ms. Uppsala University Library C 31*, printed in the appendix, pp. 133-141. It is uncertain whether the *Henricus Diestensis* referred to in the charta for 1611 (... *et dominus Henricus Diestensis redeat ad domum Ruremundae suae professionis*) was in any way connected with the charterhouse of Diest: see De Backer 1989, 11 (lines 149-150). Laporte 1953 has only two entries for Diest – in 1525 and 1557. They will be noted under those years, even though I have preferred to cite the admonitions in question from the critical editions published subsequently.

ed the entries from the obit lists for their *Prosopographia* and in this admirable compilation all the Belgian monks mentioned here can be traced.⁵

The best brief account of its history is to be found in Jan De Grauwe's *Historia Cartusiana Belgica*⁶, which can be supplemented on points of detail by M. Soenen's entry in the *Monasticon Belge*⁷, Benoît Goffin's *Les six premières chartreuses de Belgique au XIVe siècle. Une manifestation de l'orientation nouvelle de la mentalité cartusienne*⁸, and the very rich *De kartuizers en hun klooster te Zelem*, edited by F. Hendrickx.⁹

In the surviving *chartae* there is no mention of Diest in the decades following its foundation. As Diest adhered to the Urbanist Observance during the Great Schism, there should be entries for it in the Urbanist *Chartae*, but such are, in fact, rare, probably due to the incomplete state of the surviving documentation and the remoteness of Diest from the mother-house at Seitz in Slovenia. In 1383 Diest is mentioned, but only obliquely:

Priori Hollandiae non fit misericordia ... Et soluant expensas ad Capitulum factas per Priorem Hollandiae domus suae de Dyst, Capellae, Leodii, Brugis, aliis propter paupertatem excusatis.¹⁰

There is a disposition for 1386, but it is unrevealing:

Priori domus Sancti Joannis prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et committimus Visitoribus, ut si sibi uidebitur expedire donnum Joannem Ypris ad domum suae professionis scilicet Capellae remittant.¹¹

In 1388 the Visitors clearly had a difficult mission at Diest:

Priori de domo Dyest non fit misericordia. Et committimus Visitoribus Prouinciae, quod diligenter examinent utrum Prior sit reuelator confessionum et alias idoneus ad officium prioratus, (Deest hic aliquid), quod sibi faciant misericordiam, dantes eidem condignam disciplinam, ut et sibi sit ad purgationem et coeteris ad exemplum. Si uero ea quae conuentus eiusdem domus scripsit Capitulo minime fore uera reperiuntur, taliter puniantur quod in aeternum non praesumant talia de suis Visitoribus uel de suo superiore scribere Capitulo Generali; ad cuius rei maiorem declarationem litteram praefati conuentus eidem Visitoribus duximus destinandam. Insuper committimus eidem Visitoribus, ut donnum Radulphum monachum eiusdem domus educant de carcere si sine culpa inuentus fuerit, alias in eodem permaneant quousque eidem Visitoribus plene uidebitur emendatus.¹²

⁵ To avoid multiplying the footnotes very substantially, cross-references to the *Prosopographia* will not be given here, as our main concern is the general impression of the observance which can be gained from the *chartae*.

⁶ De Grauwe 1985a, 103-125, with 7 illustrations and a good bibliography (112-113).

⁷ Soenen 1976.

⁸ Goffin 1991, particularly 108-149.

⁹ Hendrickx 1984.

¹⁰ Clark 1997c, 22.

¹¹ *Ibidem*, 47.

¹² *Ibidem*, 72.

Apparently the house was not meeting its financial obligations either:

Iniungimus etiam expresse Prioribus Leodii, Hollandiae et Dyest, quod uisis praesentibus mittant taxam Capituli et Procuratoris Ordinis ad Domnum Cartusiae absque temporis dilatione. Praefati tres Priores, scilicet Hollandiae, Leodii et Dyest, mittant dictam taxam Capituli domui seu Rectori domus Syluae, et hoc infallibiliter exequantur sub praecepto obedientiae.¹³

There is no further entry for Diest until 1395, when the prior was merely confirmed in office:

Priori prope Dyest non fit misericordia.¹⁴

In 1396 the General Chapter stipulated:

Priori de Dyest non fit misericordia. Et conceditur sibi licentia quod possit recipere duos oblatos, seruata forma Nouarum Constitutionum. Et de incarcerato illo de quo scripsit Capitulo Generali, committitur futuris Visitoribus ordinandum.¹⁵

In 1397 routine matters were dealt with:

Priori de Diest non fit misericordia. Et committimus Visitoribus, quod in casu quo uideatur expediens et utile pro domo, autoritate Capituli Generalis possint sibi concedere quod possit recipere tres donatos, seruata tamen forma Nouarum Constitutionum; possint etiam concedere quod conuersi possint equitare prout scripsit Priori Cartusiae.¹⁶

The entry for 1398 reveals that the financial situation of the charterhouse was difficult:

Priori de Diest non fit misericordia. Et de illo monacho hospite de quo cum conuentu suo scripsit Capitulo Generali, committimus Visitoribus Prouinciae ordinandum in Prouincia eorum prout eis uidebitur expedire. Et propter paupertatem dimittimus eis taxam Capituli. Et concedimus eis quod illa bona iam eis data, licet sint extra terminos, possint licite possidere quousque bono modo ualeant alienari.¹⁷

In 1399 the prior was merely confirmed in office¹⁸, whilst in 1400 a reorganization of some provinces within the Urbanist Obedience was decreed:

Et quia per gratiam Dei in Prouincia Alemaniae Inferioris Ordinis monasteria sunt satis multiplicata et non possunt ex hoc a duobus Visitoribus hactenus constitutis congruis temporibus uisitari, nec diligenter illis ut est expediens prouideri, et ex hoc non modicum detrimentum uerisimiliter dictis domibus sequatur; Ordinamus quod dicta Prouincia in duas diuidatur, quarum una uocetur Prouincia Rheni, in qua domus infrascriptae contineantur, scilicet domus Moguntiae, domus Argentinae, domus Friburgi, domus Confluentiae, domus Treuiris, domus Coloniae, domus Gelriae, domus Traiecti, domus prope Amstelredam, domus Hollandiae, domus Ruremundae, domus prope Diest, et domus Leodii.

Altera uero Prouincia teneat nomen suum, scilicet Prouincia Alemaniae Inferioris ...

Et sic tres domus, scilicet Hollandiae et prope Diest et Leodij, quae alias erant de Prouincia Picardiae, de coetero sint in Prouincia Rheni; duae autem domus quae remanent, scilicet Gandau et

¹³ Clark 1997c, 74.

¹⁴ Clark 1997d, 181.

¹⁵ *Ibidem*, 196.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*, 213.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*, 229.

¹⁸ *Ibidem*, 247: *Priori de Diest non fit misericordia*.

Sanctae Annae monialium in Flandiae, durante quidem schismate sint in Prouincia Rheni, sed post factam unitatem remaneant in Prouincia Picardiae prout etiam hactenus exstiterunt.¹⁹

The financial difficulties were still acute:

Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et iniungimus sibi, ut numerum personarum quem habet ad praesens non augeat sine licentia Capituli Generalis uel Donni Cartusiae, donec ecclesia et structurae ecclesiae perficiantur. Et super istis de quibus petit consilium, habeat recursum ad Priorem Coloniae. Et propter paupertatem, concedimus sibi ut non grauetur hospitibus usque ad sequens Capitulum Generale.²⁰

In 1401 the prior was merely confirmed in office.²¹ Two years later the situation at Diest still seems to have been delicate:

Priori prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et committimus authoritatem Capituli Generalis super domum prope Diest Priori Traiecti usque ad futurum Capitulum. Et concedimus sibi licentiam recipiendi duos donatos prout ipse cum conuentu suo rogauit, de consensu conuentus et unius Visitoris secundum formam Nouarum Constitutionum; et confirmamus et approbamus professionem fratris Theodorici de Bredero et olim professi domus Gelriae, praesertim uisa litera domus Gelriae missa domui de Diest ac nobis praesentata.²²

In 1404 the supervision of Diest was prolonged:

Priori de Diest non fit misericordia. Et sicut supplicauit, Capitulum committit authoritatem Priori Hollandiae super eadem domo.²³

In 1405 the General Chapter decreed:

Priori prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et hortamur eum in Domino, ut illum venerabilem fratrem Joannem de Brederode habeat recommendatum, prout commendabilis uirtus eius meretur bene. Et committimus Priori Hollandiae super dictam domum plenam authoritatem usque ad futurum Capitulum Generale, et monemus eum in Domino ut sit magis cautus in receptione nouitiorum quam hactenus fuit; habeat quoque in huiusmodi receptionibus oculum magis ad Dominum quam ad ista temporalia; Iniungentes sibi ut numerum personarum domus non multiplicet sicut consueuit, ne forte, quod absit, per sui conuentus diuisionem coeteras domos Ordinis grauari oporteat.²⁴

The entry for 1406 remains obscure:

Priori prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et libenter acceptamus excusationem quam suus conuentus facit pro illo; querelam quoque quam Capitulo Generali significauerunt, futuris Visitoribus committimus terminandam.²⁵

In 1407 it was merely decreed:

Priori prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et authoritatem Capituli Generalis super eandem domum committimus Priori Hollandiae.²⁶

¹⁹ Clark 1997d, 259-60.

²⁰ *Ibidem*, 264.

²¹ Clark 1997e, 282: *Priori de Diest non fit misericordia*.

²² *Ibidem*, 310.

²³ *Ibidem*, 326.

²⁴ *Ibidem*, 343. The same text appears in Clark 1997b, 8, with slight variants.

²⁵ Clark 1997e, 363.

²⁶ *Ibidem*, 380.

In 1408 the prior was again admonished not to increase the size of his community – a benediction which does not beset modern Carthusian priors:

Priori prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et licentias quas super annum Prior Hollandiae concesserat confirmamus; et consilium quod petit, requirat ab eodem Priore Hollandiae. Et miramur quod sic multiplicauerit personas etiam ultra numerum ab Ordine constitutum; quare monemus eum, imo prohibemus, ne amodo audeat taliter personas multiplicare.²⁷

In 1409 the laybrother John of Brederode, who was referred to very positively in the *charta* for 1405, appears in a less favourable light:

Priori de Diest non fit misericordia. Et miramur multum, quod ipse et conuentus suus non requisierint fratrem Joannem Breydenrode conuersum suum, unde districte illis iniungimus quatenus eundem pro nosse et posse, etiam per censuram ecclesiasticam si necesse fuerit, requirere non omittant; committentes similiter Prioribus et personis Ordinis ut in hoc ipso, si opus fuerit, eisdem, assistant; ad quod etiam serius monemur ex scriptis Reuerendissimi patris domini Episcopi Traiectensis, qui de hoc pluries scripsit seriose.²⁸

In the *charta* for 1410, after the termination of the Schism in the Order, the attribution of the houses to the various Carthusian provinces was confirmed – a measure rendered necessary by foundations during the Schism. Diest remained in the Province of the Rhine:

Provincia Rheni: domus Sancti Michaelis prope Maguntiam, Sancti Albani prope Treuerim, Beatae Mariae in Hollandia, Guelriae, Montis Sancti Beati prope Confluentiam, Sanctae Barbarae in Colonia, Sancti Joannis Baptistae prope Dyest, Omnium Apostolorum in Leodio, Montis Sanctae Mariae prope Argentinam, Bethlehem in Ruremunda, Nouae Lucis Sancti Saluatoris prope Traiectum, Portus Salutis Sancti Andreae prope Amstelredam, Friburgi, Portae Montis.²⁹

In 1411 the General Chapter transferred Diest to the *Provincia Picardiae remotioris*:

Picardiae remotioris
Capellae beatae Mariae
Vallis gratiae prope Brugis
Beatae Catherinae prope Antuerpam
Syluae Sancti Martini prope Geraldimontem
Beatae Mariae prope montem Sanctae Gertrudis in Hollandia
Sancti Ioannis Baptistae prope Dyest
Vallis regalis prope Gandauum
Omnium Apostolorum prope Leodium
Monialium Sanctae Annae prope Brugis³⁰

The entry for Diest was routine:

Priori Sancti Ioannis prope Dyest non fit misericordia, et Domnus Ioannes de Arnheim uadat ad domum leodii suae professionis, et maneat in pace et imponitur sibi Silentium alibi collo-

²⁷ Clark 1997e, 396. The same text appears in Clark 1997b, 15, with slight orthographical variants.

²⁸ Clark 1997e, 415.

²⁹ Clark 1997f, 500-501.

³⁰ Hogg 1985, 10. The same list appears in Clark 1997b, 26, with slight orthographical variants. *Capelle beate Marie* has the addition *prope Angiam*.

candi, et de his quae scribit dictus Dominus Joannes respondebit sibi Prior Moguntiae.³¹

In 1412 the prior was merely confirmed in office³², and again in 1413³³, 1414³⁴, 1416³⁵, 1417³⁶, 1418³⁷, 1419³⁸, and 1420.³⁹ In 1421 the General Chapter decreed:

Priori Sancti Johannis Baptiste prope Dyest propter suas graues infirmitates & ad suam magnam instanciam fit misericordia, et quia aer dicte domus est sibi inconueniens, vadat ad domum monachorum Ghelrie ad sanitatem recuperandam, et committitur Visitoribus prouisio dicte domus de Dyest.⁴⁰

In 1422 the *charta* merely states:

Priori domus beati Ioannis prope Dyest non fit misericordia, et decisionem causae quam petit committitur uisitoribus.⁴¹

In 1423 the community was clearly in difficulties, for the General Chapter decreed:

Priori Sancti Ioannis de Diest non fit misericordia, et de diuisione domus suae committitur uisitoribus prout petitur, quibus etiam uisitoribus committitur plena facultas disponendi de hospite de quo scribit Prior et conuentus, et iniungitur eis districte ut in nundinis septembris Antuerpiae mittant priori dictae domus Antuerpiae quadraginta quatuor coronas ratione mutui per domnum Cartusiae facti domno Gotsvino, et uiginti coronas pro tunicellis Cartusiae, quas summas ipse assignauit de his quae sibi debentur super dictam domum.⁴²

In 1424 there is no individual entry for Diest, but we learn that the prior had been relieved of his office:

Priori domus Siluae Sancti Martini prope Geraldii montem non fit misericordia, sed propter absolutionem prioris de Zelem factam per priorem Antuerpiae in transitu ad Capitulum Generale, electionem futuri prioris siue rectoris committimus conuentui eiusdem domus

³¹ Hogg 1985, 10, 14-15. The same text appears in Clark 1997b, 27, with slight variants – mainly orthographical.

³² Hogg 1985, 28: *Priori de Diest non fit misericordia*. The same text appears in Clark 1997b, 34, with an orthographical variant.

³³ Hogg 1985, 42: *Priori domus Sancti Joannis Baptistae prope Dyest non fit misericordia*.

³⁴ *Ibidem*, 56: *Priori Sancti Ioannis baptistae prope dyest non fit misericordia*.

³⁵ *Ibidem*, 71: *Priori domus de diest non fit misericordia*. De Grauwe 1994, 7, has the same text.

³⁶ Hogg 1985, 85: *Priori domus de Diest non fit misericordia*. De Grauwe 1994, 13, has the same text with minimal orthographical variants.

³⁷ De Grauwe 1994, 19: *priori domus de diest non fit misericordia*.

³⁸ *Ibidem*, 25: *Priori de diest non fit misericordia*. Hogg & Sargent 1988, 36: *Priori domus de Dyest non fit misericordia*.

³⁹ Hogg 1986a, 11: *Priori domus Sancti Ioannis prope Dyest non fit misericordia*. De Grauwe 1994, 33, has: *Priori domus sancti Johannis prope diest non fit misericordia*. Likewise Hogg 1988, 44, with slight orthographical variants.

⁴⁰ Hogg & Sargent 1988, 52.

⁴¹ Hogg 1986a, 29. De Grauwe 1994, 47, has the same text with slight orthographical variations. Likewise Hogg & Sargent 1988, 64.

⁴² Hogg 1986a, 49. The same text appears in Clark 1997b, 54, with slight orthographical variants, and in De Grauwe 1994, 54, again with slight orthographical variants. Likewise Hogg & Sargent 1988, 74, but here the amount due becomes *xliij coronas* instead of 44.

conuocatis prioribus duobus celebrandam, et concedimus quod domnus Iacobus de Merica possit in dicta domo Sancti Martini profiteri.⁴³

In 1425⁴⁴, 1426⁴⁵, and 1427⁴⁶ the prior was merely confirmed in office, but in 1428 a new prior was installed with specific instructions regarding the estates of the charterhouse:

Priori domus Sancti Ioannis baptistae in Zelin fit misericordia, et pro hac uice praeficimus domnum Gotscalem domus prope Leodium professum ibidem in priorem, Licentiam uero dilatationis terminorum cuius copiam uidimus, quia nimis larga est annullamus, iniungentes eis quod possessiones et redditus contra formam Statutorum praetextu huiusmodi licentiae uendant infra biennium, et pecuniam ipsam conuertant legitime in alios redditus sub poena in statutis expressa.⁴⁷

In 1429 the General Chapter was somewhat less severe concerning the estates:

Priori domus prope diest non fit misericordia, et conceditur sibi licentia ut recipiat donatos quos petit, de decimis uero et pascuis extra terminos retinendis pro quibus scribunt, stent iudicio uisitorum.⁴⁸

In 1430⁴⁹, 1431⁵⁰, and 1432⁵¹ the prior was merely confirmed in office. In 1433 the General Chapter decreed:

Priori domus sancti iohannis prope diest non fit misericordia. Et de petitione quam petunt pro domno henrico de lana diffinimus non dari debere cum valeat facere sicut alii monachi.⁵²

⁴³ Hogg 1986a, 68. De Grauwe 1994, 61, has: *priori silve sancti martini prope geraldimontem non fit misericordia. Et concedimus quod domnus iacobus de mirica possit in dicta domo sancti martini profiteri. Propter absolutionem prioris de zeelem factam per priorem antwerpie in transitu ad capitulum generale electionem futuri prioris sive rectoris committimus conventui eiusdem domus convocatis prioribus duobus celebrandam.*

⁴⁴ Hogg 1986a, 92: *Priori domus Sancti Ioannis prope diest non fit misericordia.* In Clark 1997b, 61, the text runs: *Priori de Zeelhem prope Dyest non fit misericordia.* De Grauwe 1994, 72, has: *Priori domus sancti Johannis baptiste prope dyest non fit misericordia.* Hogg & Sargent 1988, 93, has the same text with slight orthographical variants.

⁴⁵ Hogg 1986a, 112: *Priori domus de Diest non fit misericordia.* De Grauwe 1994, 80, has: *Priori diest non fit misericordia.*

⁴⁶ Hogg 1986a, 131: *Priori domus Sancti Ioannis prope diest non fit misericordia.*

⁴⁷ Hogg 1986b, 13. De Grauwe 1994, 88, has the same text with slight variants. Likewise Hogg & Sargent 1988, 117, with minor orthographical variants. Hogg 1986b, 14: the entry for the London charterhouse in this year recalls a laybrother, who had been a hospes in Diest: *... et frater Ioannes Ioannis hospes in domo de zelin prope diest uadat ad priorem domus londoniarum expensis domus suae professionis.* Hogg & Sargent 1988, 118, has: *Et frater Johannes Jolijs hospes in domo de Zeelem prope Dyest uadat ad Priorem domus Londoniarum expensis domus sue professionis.*

⁴⁸ Hogg 1986b, 31. De Grauwe 1994, 94, has the same text with slight orthographical variants. Likewise Hogg & Sargent 1988, 128.

⁴⁹ De Grauwe 1994, 100: *priori domus sancti iohannis baptiste prope diest non fit misericordia.* Hogg & Sargent 1988, 137, has the same text with slight orthographical variants.

⁵⁰ Hogg 1986b, 54: *Priori domus Sancti Ioannis prope diest non fit misericordia.* De Grauwe 1994, 107: *Priori domus sancti Johannis iuxta diest non fit misericordia.*

⁵¹ Hogg 1986b, 77: *Priori domus Sancti Ioannis prope diest non fit misericordia.* Clark 1997b, 84, has the same text with slight orthographical variants. Likewise De Grauwe 1994, 117.

⁵² De Grauwe 1994, 124. Likewise Hogg & Sargent 1988, 166, with slight orthographical variants.

In 1434⁵³ and 1435⁵⁴, the prior was again merely confirmed in office, but in 1436 the question was raised whether a monk should be released from the monastic prison or not:

Priori domus Sancti Ioannis prope diest non fit misericordia, et de incarcerato liberando de quo scribunt uicarius et duo monachi committitur Priori Antuerpie, tamen fiat hoc cum consensu Prioris et Conuentus.⁵⁵

In 1437 the prior was merely confirmed in office⁵⁶, but in 1438 trouble-makers were reprimanded:

Priori domus Beati Johannis Baptiste prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et quia quidam monachorum dicte domus suis presumptuosis moribus et scandalosis dictam domum conturbant, committimus Visitoribus quod predictos nisi se emendauerint, expensis prefate domus alibi possint collocare.⁵⁷

In 1439 the temporary rector who had been installed during the year was replaced:

Rectori domus de Zeelem prope Diest ad suam magnam instantiam et propter corporales suas infirmitates fit misericordia. Et preficimus ibidem in Priorem dominum Johannem Louf monachum professum domus Leodij ad conuentus petitionem. Et dispositionem domini Christofori vander Weghe plenarie committimus Visitoribus.⁵⁸

In 1440 the prior was merely confirmed in office⁵⁹, whilst in 1441 there is the enigmatic entry:

Priori domus Sancti Johannis prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et domni [?] Romboldo inponimus perpetuum silencium super his que scripsit Capitulo, cum informati simus sufficienter

⁵³ Hogg 1986b, 99: *Priori domus Sancti Ioannis prope dyest non fit misericordia*. Clark 1997b, 91, has the same text with slight variants. De Grauwe 1994, 131: *Priori domus beati johannis baptiste prope diest non fit misericordia*. Hogg & Sargent 1988, 172, has the same text with slight orthographical variants.

⁵⁴ Hogg 1986b, 123: *Priori domus Sancti Ioannis prope dyest non fit misericordia*. Clark 1997b, 101, has the same text with slight variants. De Grauwe 1994, 139: *priori domus sancti johannis baptiste prope diest non fit misericordia*. Hogg & Sargent 1988, 186, has the same text with slight orthographical variants.

⁵⁵ Hogg 1986b, 142. De Grauwe 1994, 146, has the same text with slight orthographical variants. Likewise Hogg & Sargent 1988, 192.

⁵⁶ De Grauwe 1994, 153: *priori domus sancti johannis prope dyest non fit misericordia*.

⁵⁷ Sargent & Hogg 1984a, 26. De Grauwe 1994, 161: *Priori domus beati johannis baptiste prope diest non fit misericordia. Et quia quidam monachorum dicte domus presumptuosis moribus dictam domum conturbant, committimus visitoribus quod predictos nisi se emendauerint expensis dicte domus alibi possint collocare*. Hogg & Sargent 1988, 209, as in De Grauwe 1994, 161, with slight orthographical variants.

⁵⁸ Sargent & Hogg 1984a, 47. De Grauwe 1994, 169, has the same text with slight orthographical variants. Likewise Hogg & Sargent 1988, 224 (*Vandenweghe*).

⁵⁹ Sargent & Hogg 1984a, 67: *Priori domus Sancti Johannis prope Diest non fit misericordia*. Clark 1997b, 122, has the same text with slight variants. De Grauwe 1994, 177: *Priori domus sancti iohannis baptiste non fit misericordia prope diest*. Clark 1991a, 8, has the same text with slight orthographical variants.

laboratum esse circa causam ipsius, nec amplius super his Patres Ordinis inquietet in quantum voluerit Ordinis effugere disciplinam.⁶⁰

In 1442 the prior was obviously infirm and there was the problem of a proposed visit by the founder and the foundress:

Priori domus Sancti Johannis prope Diest non fit misericordia. Sed propter suas infirmitates crebras committitur Visitoribus quod eam sibi faciant si hoc pro utilitate domus eis visum fuerit expedire. Et in casu quo absolventur Visitatores per electionem conuentualium aut alias de pastore ydoneo prouideant. Et de licentia quam petunt pro introitu fundatoris et fundatricis respondetur eis in littera quam scribunt.⁶¹

In 1443 the prior was finally relieved of his office:

Priori domus Sancti Johannis in Zeelem prope Diest propter suas infirmitates fit misericordia. Et remittitur conuentui electio quam confirmare habebunt si canonica fuerit Priores Antwerpie et Gandau.⁶²

In 1444⁶³, 1445⁶⁴, 1446⁶⁵, and 1447⁶⁶ the prior was merely confirmed in office, but in 1448 the question of the expenses for fugitives had to be regulated:

Priori domus Montis Sancti Johannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et de quodam ibidem incarcerato professo domus Noue Lucis prope Traiectum a quo petunt liberari, habeant patientiam et adhuc sustineat eum ad tempus propter causas hic non expressas, expensis tamen dicte domus Traiectj per Visitatores taxandis. Et mittat Reuerendo Patri Cartusie in futuro Capitulo octo ducatos quos exposuit Prior Parme in vestitura duorum monachorum professorum dicte domus Diestensis fugitiuorum.⁶⁷

In 1449 the patience of the Diest community regarding a hospes in their prison was clearly exhausted:

Priori domus Montis Sancti Johannis Baptiste prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et super his que de incarcerato Traiectensi scribunt est infra in Carta prouisum et per Priorem Capelle si opus fuerit respondendum.⁶⁸

⁶⁰ Sargent & Hogg 1984a, 87. Clark 1997b, 127, has the same texts with slight variants. In the Paderborn MS. *domno Romboldo*, so presumably an editorial error in transcription in Sargent & Hogg 1984a. De Grauwe 1994, 182, has the same text with *domno Romboldo*. Again there are slight orthographical variants and a typographical error: *suoer* for *super*.

⁶¹ Sargent & Hogg 1984a, 109. Clark 1997b, 137, has the same text with slight variants. Likewise De Grauwe 1994, 191.

⁶² Sargent & Hogg 1984a, 130. Clark 1997b, 146, has the same text with slight orthographical variants.

⁶³ Sargent & Hogg 1984a, 151: *Priori domus Sancti Johannis prope Diest non fit misericordia*. Clark 1997b, 153, has the same text with slight orthographical variants. Likewise Clark 1991a, 43.

⁶⁴ Sargent & Hogg 1984a, 174: *Priori domus Sancti Johannis prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁶⁵ *Ibidem*, 198: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Johannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*. Clark 1997b, 160, has the same text with slight orthographical variants.

⁶⁶ Sargent & Hogg 1984b, 17: *Priori domus Sancti Johannis Baptiste prope Dyest non fit misericordia*. Clark 1997b, 168, has the same text.

⁶⁷ Sargent & Hogg 1984b, 41. Clark 1997b, 178, has the same text with slight orthographical variants.

⁶⁸ Sargent & Hogg 1984b, 64. Clark 1997b, 187, has the same text with slight orthographical variants. Cf. Sargent & Hogg 1984b, 64: *Priori domus Noue Lucis Sancti Saluatoris prope Traiectum non fit misericordia. Et iniungimus eis quod ad dictamen Visitorum prouincie ita liberaliter*

In 1450⁶⁹, 1451⁷⁰, and 1452⁷¹ the prior was merely confirmed in office, whilst in 1453 he makes a rare appearance as *diffinitor* at the General Chapter.⁷² In 1454⁷³, 1455⁷⁴, 1456⁷⁵, 1457⁷⁶, 1458⁷⁷, 1459⁷⁸, 1460⁷⁹, 1461⁸⁰, 1462⁸¹, 1463⁸², 1464⁸³, 1465⁸⁴, 1466⁸⁵, 1467⁸⁶, and 1468⁸⁷ he was again confirmed in office without further comment. In 1469 the prior was exhorted to be stalwart in supporting the burdens of office:

Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia, sed habeat adhuc patientiam in Domino. Et frater Symon dicte domus hospes, in eadem profiteatur.⁸⁸

prouideant de expensis sui incarcerati in domo Diestensi quod ibidem aut alibi pacienter toleretur, aut ad domum suam Traiectensem incarcerandus Reuertatur.

⁶⁹ Sargent & Hogg 1984b, 89: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*. Clark 1997b, 198, has the same text with slight orthographical variants.

⁷⁰ Sargent & Hogg 1984b, 115: *Priori domus Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest, non fit misericordia*.

⁷¹ *Ibidem*, 138: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁷² *Ibidem*, 147: *Diestensis*. He was again confirmed in office: *Priori domus Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia* (*Ibidem*, 159). He was also charged with some of the business of the province, for we read: *Priori domus Beate Marie in Monichusen prope Arnhen in Gelria non fit misericordia. Et de hoc quod scribit cum conuentu suo, sibi respondebitur ad partem per Priorem Diestensem* (*Ibidem*, 159).

⁷³ *Ibidem*, 182: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁷⁴ *Ibidem*, 206: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁷⁵ *Ibidem*, 231: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*. Clark 1991a, 153, has the same text with slight orthographical variants.

⁷⁶ Sargent & Hogg 1985a, 20: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁷⁷ *Ibidem*, 44: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁷⁸ *Ibidem*, 68: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁷⁹ *Ibidem*, 92: *Priori domus Sancti Iohannis in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁸⁰ *Ibidem*, 114: *Priori domus Sancti Iohannis Baptiste prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁸¹ *Ibidem*, 139: *Priori domus Sancti Iohannis Baptiste prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁸² *Ibidem*, 163: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁸³ *Ibidem*, 191: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁸⁴ *Ibidem*, 218: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁸⁵ Sargent & Hogg 1985b, 20: *Priori domus Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁸⁶ *Ibidem*, 44: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁸⁷ *Ibidem*, 71: *Priori domus Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia*.

⁸⁸ *Ibidem*, 96.

In 1470⁸⁹, 1471⁹⁰, 1472⁹¹, and 1473⁹² the prior was merely confirmed in office. In 1474 Diest was allowed to celebrate an extra chapter feast:

Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et concedimus dicte domui gratiam et licenciam amodo celebrandj festum Cathedre Sancti Petri cum capitulo.⁹³

In 1483 the General Chapter decreed:

Et declaramus N. nunc manentem in domo prope Diest Ordinis, non esse personam Ordinis, ut claret ex sua propria confessione de matrimonio per eum contracto (In domo Zelandiae).⁹⁴

In 1497 two monks of Diest were reprimanded:

Et fratres N. et N. monachi domus Diestensis, quia friuole scripserunt Reuerendo Patri, infra annum careant uoce et colloquio claustrum ad Ordinis uoluntatem.⁹⁵

In 1503 the prior was instructed to investigate the possibilities of a new foundation:

Et committimus Priori (domus Diestensis) ut accedat ad ipsam domicellam quae intendit fundare nouam plantationem, et conueniat de assensu Principis dioecesani et oppidi Cor-tracensis; et de his omnibus Reuerendum Patrem et Diffinitores Capituli Generalis in proximo Capituli certiores faciat.⁹⁶

In 1505 under *Prouincia Teuthonie* routine matters are indicated:

Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et domnus Cornelius Wayn ibidem hospes faciat professionem, de consensu Prioris & conuentus.⁹⁷

In 1506⁹⁸ and 1507⁹⁹ the prior was merely confirmed in office, but in 1507 a fugitive of Diest was excluded from the province:

Et domnus N. professus domus Diestensis et domnus N. professus domus prope Buscumducis fugitiuos, in terrorum aliorum a Prouincia excludimus ad Ordinis uoluntatem.¹⁰⁰

In 1508 the prior of Diest was instructed to meet his financial obligations:

Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et mittat ad Capitulum futurum quatuor ducatos Priori domus Auinionis, quos exposuit pro uestimentis domni Judoci professi sui ibidem hospitantis.¹⁰¹

⁸⁹ Sargent & Hogg 1985b, 123: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia.*

⁹⁰ *Ibidem*, 146: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia.*

⁹¹ *Ibidem*, 171: *Priori domus Montis Sancti Iohannis Baptiste prope Diest non fit misericordia.*

⁹² *Ibidem*, 197: *Priori domus Sancti Iohannis Baptiste in Zeelem prope Diest non fit misericordia.*

⁹³ *Ibidem*, 223.

⁹⁴ Clark 1999a, 33.

⁹⁵ *Ibidem*, 82.

⁹⁶ *Ibidem*, 102-103.

⁹⁷ Clark 1992b, vol. 1, 38.

⁹⁸ *Ibidem*, 68: *Priori domus Sancti Iohannis Baptiste prope Diest non fit misericordia.*

⁹⁹ *Ibidem*, 97: *Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia.*

¹⁰⁰ Clark 1998a, 24. The grammar seems rather adventurous!

¹⁰¹ Clark 1992b, vol. 2, 128.

In 1509¹⁰² and 1510¹⁰³ the prior was again confirmed in office, whilst in 1511 there is the enigmatic entry:

Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia. Et de executione testamenti domni Johannis de Trisco, Visitatores in proxima visitatione ipsius domus prouideant.¹⁰⁴

In 1512 the prior was merely confirmed in office¹⁰⁵, and again in 1516¹⁰⁶, 1517¹⁰⁷, and 1518.¹⁰⁸ In 1518, quite exceptionally, the prior of Diest was Provincial Convisor.¹⁰⁹ In 1519 he was confirmed in office both as prior¹¹⁰ and as provincial convisor¹¹¹, and again in 1520¹¹² and 1521.¹¹³ In 1522¹¹⁴, 1523¹¹⁵ and 1524¹¹⁶ he was merely confirmed as prior. In 1525 a laybrother was finally expelled from the Order:

Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia. Et dominus Jacobus de Lubeca ibidem professus vadat hospitatum ad domum monialium prope Brugis, vt ibi commodius possit spiritualibus vacare. Et frater Johannes Strocode donatus eiusdem domus, licet iam frequenter propter suos excessus ab Ordine fuerit expellendus, tamen Ordinis lenitate et gracia abuti non cessat. Ideo illum nunc ab Ordine expellimus, et pro expulso de cetero haberi volumus.¹¹⁷

In 1526 the prior was merely confirmed in office.¹¹⁸ The following year there was merely a rector in charge:

Rectori domus Dyestensis non fit misericordia. Et domno Ioannj Zuet monacho et professo ibidem respondetur ad partem.¹¹⁹

In 1528¹²⁰, 1529¹²¹ and 1530¹²² the prior was confirmed in office. In 1531 the significance of the entry remains obscure:

¹⁰² Clark 1992b, 155: *Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia.*

¹⁰³ *Ibidem*, 171: *Priori domus Diest non fit misericordia.*

¹⁰⁴ *Ibidem*, 199.

¹⁰⁵ *Ibidem*, 227: *Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia.*

¹⁰⁶ Clark 1994a, 13: *Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia.*

¹⁰⁷ *Ibidem*, 33: *Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia.*

¹⁰⁸ *Ibidem*, 55: *Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia.*

¹⁰⁹ *Ibidem*, 60.

¹¹⁰ *Ibidem*, 76: *Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia.*

¹¹¹ *Ibidem*, 84.

¹¹² Clark 1995a, 23: *Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia.* For his reappointment as Convisor: *Ibidem*, 35.

¹¹³ *Ibidem*, 53: *Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia.* For his reappointment as Convisor: *Ibidem*, 61.

¹¹⁴ *Ibidem*, 81: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia.*

¹¹⁵ Clark 1995b, 15: *Priori domus prope Diest non fit misericordia.*

¹¹⁶ *Ibidem*, 44: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia.*

¹¹⁷ *Ibidem*, 73. Laporte 1953, admonition 1898, merely has: *Et D. N... Professus Domus Diestensis vadat hospitatum ad Domum Monialium prope Brugis, ut ibi possit commodius spiritualibus vacare.*

¹¹⁸ Clark 1996a, 27: *Priori domus prope Dyest non fit misericordia.*

¹¹⁹ *Ibidem*, 54.

¹²⁰ Clark 1996a, 83: *Priori domus Dyestensis non fit misericordia.*

¹²¹ *Ibidem*, 114: *Priori domus Diest non fit misericordia.*

¹²² Clark 1996b, 20: *Priori domus Dyestensis non fit misericordia.*

Priori domus Dyestensis non fit misericordia. Et de his que scribit domnus Ioannes Zuet de Brielis, quoniam non plene informati sumus de veritate negocij, committimus idem negocium Visitoribus Prouincie in proxima visitacione terminandum; Iniungentes eidem Ioannj quod eisdem Visitoribus ostendat responsum sibi ad partem factum in Capitulo Generali anno vicesimo septimo.¹²³

In 1532 there were clearly divisions in the community:

Priori domus Dyestensis non fit misericordia. Et de his que petunt domnj Guillelmus, Ioannes et Cornelius de Brielis, habeant pacientiam in suis petitionibus. Et si causam habeant iuste querele aduersus Priorem, que ex eorum literis non satis euidenter apparet, exponant Visitoribus Prouincie, quj ministrabunt iusticiam. Licentiam domno Ludouico de Platea eiusdem domus hospitis anno preterito a Patre Reuerendo Cartusie concessam, vt quereret locum in Ordine suo Priori, ab eodem male intellectam et peruerse interpretatam, omnino cassamus et reuocamus.¹²⁴

To judge by the entry for 1533, Louis of Platea constituted a definite problem for the community:

Priori domus Dyestensis non fit misericordia. Et super his que scripta sunt de domno Ludouico de Platea, habeant ad tempus pacientiam conuentuales. Et concedimus eidem domno Ludouico propter suas, vt dicit, frequentes infirmitates et alias causas quas subticemus, licentiam querendi per amicos locum in ordine laxiori ab ecclesia approbato. Et interea studeat religiose & pacifice conuersari in Ordine nostro, si Dei et Ordinis nostri velit euadere uisionem.¹²⁵

In 1534¹²⁶ and 1535¹²⁷ the prior was merely confirmed in office. From this point onwards, the *chartae* are only published to date for brief periods, but in some cases from manuscripts dealing specifically with the *Provincia Teutoniae*.

In 1557 the prior was confirmed in office, but the community was ordered to observe strictly the limits for the *spatiamenta* approved by the visitors under pain of the suspension of the weekly walk:

Priori domus Dyestensis non fit misericordia. Spaciamenta per Visitatores ordinata confirmamus, taliter tamen vt rite et recte vtantur illis religiosi, nec ad domos vicinas declinent, alioquin volumus et mandamus Priori et Visitoribus presentibus et futuris, vt ipsa spaciamenta suspendant vel reuocent in toto vel in parte prout viderint expedire.¹²⁸

In 1560 the prior was confirmed in office without comment¹²⁹, as in 1563¹³⁰, 1564¹³¹, and 1565.¹³² In 1566, besides receiving confirmation¹³³, he

¹²³ Clark 1996b, 53.

¹²⁴ *Ibidem*, 85-86.

¹²⁵ Clark 1997a, 21.

¹²⁶ *Ibidem*, 49: *Priori domus prope Dyest non fit misericordia*.

¹²⁷ *Ibidem*, 78: *Priori domus Dyestensis non fit misericordia*.

¹²⁸ Clark 2007a, 18. Cfr. Clark 2000, 103.

¹²⁹ Clark 2007a, 39: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia*.

¹³⁰ *Ibidem*, 96: *Priori domus Dyestensis non fit misericordia*.

¹³¹ *Ibidem*, 119: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia*.

¹³² *Ibidem*, 145: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia*.

¹³³ *Ibidem*, 174: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia*.

was also appointed provincial convisor.¹³⁴ In 1567 he was confirmed in both offices¹³⁵ and ordered to proceed to a special visitation of the charterhouse of Delft:

Priori domus Delphensis non fit misericordia. Et super hiis que scribunt conuentuales, prouideant Prior Diestensis cum Priore Brugis prout petunt in litteris suis conuentuales, in descensu Capituli cum plena auctoritate Capituli Generalis, etiam absoluendi quoscumque officiales, si casus absolute digni occurrerint, vel aliter expedire viderint, et prouidendi de aliis.¹³⁶

In 1568 he was again confirmed in both offices¹³⁷ and charged to see whether Dom Theodore in the charterhouse of Utrecht showed sufficient signs of penitence to be released from the monastic prison:

Priori domus Traiecti non fit misericordia. Et committitur Prioribus Diestensis et Bruxelle, vt si in domno Theodorico a Langeracia ibidem incarcerato agnouerint signa humilitatis et penitudinis, illum a carcere relaxare et disciplinas mitigare, commutare vel suspendere possint, ita tamen ut eum allibi collocent sicut viderint expedire, auctoritate Capituli Generalis.¹³⁸

The prior of Diest was assigned an even more delicate mission at the charterhouse of Delft:

Priori domus Delphensis non fit misericordia; quem hortamur, vt adiutus consilio et adisistentia Visitorum, obseruantiam regularem restauret; et rebelles et inobedientes, Visitatores puniant et dispergant in Prouincia.¹³⁹

In 1569 the prior was once more confirmed in both offices¹⁴⁰ and entrusted, along with the prior of Brussels and Valenciennes, with the solution of the problems concerning the English refugee monks under Dom Maurice Chauncy at the charterhouse of Bruges:

Priori domus Brugis not fit misericordia; et visis ordinatis carte Capituli Generalis anni preteriti, eundem domnum Mauricium Priorem Brugis rogamus, obsecramus, et hortamur in Domino, vt Venerabiles Priores Valenchenarum, Diestensis et Bruxelle, vt nuncios Capituli Generalis siue Commissarios et de mente ipsius Capituli informatos, inter quos medius erit qui dixit: *Vbi duo vel tres fuerint congregati in nomine meo, in medio eorum sum*, suscipere, audire, et exaudire velit, et eorum consiliis aquiescere pro Dei et Ordine honore, sua et suorum et omnium consolatione et salutari edificatione; quibus fidem indubiam adhiberi volumus, tam super residentia Anglorum in domo Brugis siue Silue Sancti Martini, quam super

¹³⁴ Clark 2007a, 186: *Prouinciam Teuthonie visitabunt Priores domorum Traiecti et Diestensis*.

¹³⁵ Clark 2007b, 202: *Prior domus Diestensis non fit misericordia. Et domnus Nicolaus ibidem professus vadat hospitatum at domum Gandau ad Ordinis voluntatem*; 219: *Prouinciam Teuthonie visitabunt Priores domorum Traiecti et Diestensis*.

¹³⁶ *Ibidem*, 203.

¹³⁷ *Ibidem*, 241: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia*; 250: *Prouinciam Teuthonie visitabunt Priores domorum Traiecti et Diestensis*.

¹³⁸ *Ibidem*, 241.

¹³⁹ *Ibidem*, 241.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibidem*, 271: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia*; 281: *Prouinciam Teuthonie visitabunt Priores domorum Traiecti et Diestensis*.

loco per eum ad inhabitandum empto, quem multi timorati viri non consulunt; quibus etiam communicari poterunt scripta super annum per Reuerendum Patrum Cartusie.¹⁴¹

In 1570 the prior was apparently confirmed once again in both offices.¹⁴²

In 1571 he served on the diffinitory of the General Chapter¹⁴³ and not surprisingly was confirmed in both offices.¹⁴⁴ In 1572 he was also confirmed in both offices.¹⁴⁵ In 1573 a new prior was confirmed:

Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia: quem hortamur, vt vestigial sui predecessoris sicuti tam bene cepit insequatur, et omnibus suis sese benignum exhibere studeat, Ordinis disciplina semper tamen seruata.¹⁴⁶

He was not, however, appointed convisor.¹⁴⁷ In 1574 he was confirmed as prior.¹⁴⁸ In 1575 the General Chapter decreed:

(In Prouincia Teutoniae). Iuxta Statutum iubeant Visitatores fieri firmos carceres in domibus in quibus non sunt, intra solemnitatem Natiuitatis Dominicae.¹⁴⁹

We do not know whether the prison at Diest was up to the required high security standards. In 1601 the community had been forced to flee from the charterhouse:

Diuisionem conuentus domus Diestensis donec antiqua domus restituta fuerit, committimus Visitoribus prouinciae; et in administrationem dictae domus instituimus domnum Theodoricum Procuratorem domus Sophiae, cui pro sua residentia assignamus domum Leodii uel, si sine periculo fieri possit, antiquum monasterium.¹⁵⁰

By 1602 the crisis had passed and the General Chapter exhorted the newly installed prior:

Priorem domus Diestensis institutum hortamur, ut omni studio conetur domum erigere in utroque statu.¹⁵¹

¹⁴¹ Clark 2007b, 271. For Maurice Chauncy and the English refugees, cfr. Clark 2006-2007.

¹⁴² *Ibidem*, 302: (*In domo Diestensi*) *Et quamprimum poterit, recepta charta Capituli, mittat aliquem monachum ex suis exemplarem, quem iudicio Visitorum aptiorem invenerit, pro iuamine divini officii et reformatione domus Monachorum [Monichusen], expensis illius*; 308: *Prouinciam Theutonie visitabunt Priores domorum Traiecti et Diestensis*. Cfr. Clark 2000, 182. Laporte 1953, admonition 2474, has the same text with minimal orthographical variants.

¹⁴³ Clark 2007c, 311: *Diestensis*.

¹⁴⁴ *Ibidem*, 333: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia*; 340: *Prouinciam Theutonie visitabunt Priores domorum Traiecti et Diestensis*.

¹⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, 365: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia*; 375: *Prouinciam Theutonie visitabunt Priores domorum Traiecti et Diestensis*.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibidem*, 395.

¹⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, 403: *Prouinciam Teuthonie visitabunt Priores Traiecti et Bruxelle*.

¹⁴⁸ *Ibidem*, 422: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia*.

¹⁴⁹ Clark 2001a, 36.

¹⁵⁰ Clark 2001c, 6.

¹⁵¹ Clark 2001c, 9.

In 1617¹⁵², 1618¹⁵³ and 1619¹⁵⁴, the prior was merely confirmed in office, whilst the entry for 1620 is routine:

Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a et Fr. Paulus conv ds Bruxellae vadat ad domum Lovanii.¹⁵⁵

The same year a monk and a donatus were sent from the charterhouse of Louvain to reinforce the community at Diest:

Et D. Jacobus Goossens prof ds Capellae vadat ad domum Diestensis. Et Anthonius ibidem don vadat ad dictam domum Diestensem.¹⁵⁶

In 1621 a donatus was sent to Diest:

Priori domus Lijrae non fit mi[sericordi]a. ... et Nicolaus donatus eiusdem domus vadat ad domum Diestensem.¹⁵⁷

Some changes in the officers were also made:

Priori domus Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a et D. Paulus prof. et vicarius eiusdem domus exerceat officium procuratoris et D. Philippus Buisset prof. domus Lovanii ibidem procurator exerceat officium vicarii.¹⁵⁸

In 1623 the General Chapter decreed:

Prior ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a. Et D. Philippus Busset eat ad domum Lyrae, et ibi exerceat officium vicarij.¹⁵⁹

A new vicar was sent to Diest:

Priori ds Lyrae non fit mi[sericordi]a. Et D. Petrus Lamberti prof ds Lovanij eat ad domum Diestensem, et ibi exerceat officium vicarij.¹⁶⁰

The new vicar did not settle in at Diest, for in 1624 it was decided:

Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a et D. Petrus Lamberti prof ds Lovanij ibidem vicarius revertatur ad domum suae professionis prout instanter petit.¹⁶¹

In 1625 the General Chapter decreed:

Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a et D. Christophorum prof ds Lovanij ibidem super annum a P.P. Visitoribus vicarium institutum confirmamus. Et D. Cornelius Robergs ibidem prof eat ad domum Brugensem prout petit a D. Joannem Berblocq prof ds Gandavi sub spe emendationis liberamus a carcere salvis Ordinis disciplinis et alijs suspensionibus ad tempus relictis arbitrio P.P. Visitorum.¹⁶²

¹⁵² De Grauwe 1997, 9: *Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a*.

¹⁵³ *Ibidem*, 17: *Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a*.

¹⁵⁴ *Ibidem*, 25: *Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a*.

¹⁵⁵ *Ibidem*, 34.

¹⁵⁶ *Ibidem*, 34.

¹⁵⁷ De Grauwe 2000, 8.

¹⁵⁸ *Ibidem*, 8.

¹⁵⁹ De Grauwe 1997, 44.

¹⁶⁰ *Ibidem*, 44.

¹⁶¹ *Ibidem*, 54.

¹⁶² *Ibidem*, 64. Clark 2001c has: *(In domo Diestensi). Et domnum N. sub spe emendationis liberamus a carcere, salvis Ordinis disciplinis et alijs suspensionibus ad tempus relictis arbitrio Patrum Visitorum.*

1626¹⁶³, 1627¹⁶⁴ and 1628¹⁶⁵ were quiet years and the prior was merely confirmed in office, whilst in 1629 the priors of La Chapelle and Diest were swapped:

Priori ds Capellae alibi necessario fit mi[sericordi]a et praeficimus in Priorem dictae ds D. Laurentium propterea a prioratu ds Diestensis absolutum ...¹⁶⁶

Priori ds Diestensis alibi Instituto fit mi[sericordi]a et praeficimus in priorem dictae ds D. Petrus Daems propterea a prioratu ds Capelle absolutum.¹⁶⁷

In 1630 there was a certain movement of personnel:

Priori domus Monachorum Brugis non fit mi[sericordi]a. Et D. Cornelius Rauberch Prof. domus Diestensis vadat ad domum Sylvae S. Martini.

...

Priori domus Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a.

...

Priori domus Lovany non fit mi[sericordi]a. Et D. Joannes Dantyn ibidem vicarius vadat ad domum Diestensem et ibi exercent idem officium vicarij.¹⁶⁸

In 1631 the prior was merely confirmed in office¹⁶⁹, but the following year he was sent elsewhere:

Priori ds Diestensis alibi necessario fit mi[sericordi]a. Et praeficimus in Priorem dictae ds D. Adrianum prof et procurator ds Capellae.¹⁷⁰

In 1633¹⁷¹ and 1634¹⁷² the prior was merely confirmed in office, but in 1635 he was relieved of his charge:

Priori domus Diestensis alibi instituto fit mi[sericordi]a et praeficimus in Priorem dictae domus D. Joannem Richardum prof. domus Bruxellensis propterea a Prioratu Sylvae S. Martini absolutum et D. Augustinus van Doren prof. domus Capellae revertatur ad domum suae professionis et D. Joannes D'Antinne ibidem vicarius revertatur ad domum Lovaniensem suae professionis.¹⁷³

In 1636 the prior was confirmed in office¹⁷⁴, whilst in 1637 a difficult case was moved on:

Priori domus Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a et D. Petrus Alvarez prof. domus Bruxellensis vadat ad domum Sylvae Sancti Martini ibique religiosius vivere curet.¹⁷⁵

¹⁶³ De Grauwe 1997, 74: *Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a*.

¹⁶⁴ *Ibidem*, 83: *Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a*.

¹⁶⁵ *Ibidem*, 91: *Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a*.

¹⁶⁶ *Ibidem*, 98.

¹⁶⁷ *Ibidem*, 98.

¹⁶⁸ De Grauwe 2000, 18-19.

¹⁶⁹ De Grauwe 1997, 108: *Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a*.

¹⁷⁰ *Ibidem*, 118.

¹⁷¹ De Grauwe 2000, 28: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a*.

¹⁷² *Ibidem*, 37: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia*.

¹⁷³ *Ibidem*, 46.

¹⁷⁴ *Ibidem*, 56: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a*.

¹⁷⁵ De Grauwe 2000, 67.

In 1638 Dom Anthony was sent to Diest:

Priori ds Sijlvae S. Martini non fit mi[sericordi]a, ... et D. Antonius de Lieu vadat ad domum Diestensem.¹⁷⁶

There were also changes at Diest:

Priori ds Diestensis fit mi[sericordi]a. Et praeficimus in Priorem dictae ds D. Hugonem Matte propterea a prioratu ds Tornacensis absolutus, et prior absolutus eligat sibi domum ad formam Statuti, et D. Matthias Scoones vadat ad domum Sylvae S. Martini.¹⁷⁷

In 1639 there was a certain movement of personnel:

Priori domus Capellae non fit misericordia et D. Joannes Schonendonck revertatur ad domum suae professionis Diestensis

...

Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia et D. Robertus de la Fosse redeat ad domum Capellae suae professionis et D. Dionysium Christiani in vicarium a Patre Visitatore super annum institutum confirmamus.¹⁷⁸

The unfortunate Dom Petrus Alvarez, who had been moved from Diest in 1637, after further peregrinations, had landed up at the charterhouse of Brussels, where the prior of the Grande Chartreuse ordered not only his imprisonment, but also reduced alimentation:

... et D. Petrus Alvarez ex ordinatione Reverendi P. in carcere perseveret addentes cum restrictione victualium.¹⁷⁹

In 1640 there was a certain movement of personnel:

Priori ds Monachorum Brugis non fit mia et D. Hugo Gelos vadat ad domum Diestensis suae professionis.¹⁸⁰

Priori ds Diestensis non fit mia Et D. Antonius de Lieu vadat ad domum Monachorum Brugis.¹⁸¹

In 1641 the prior was relieved of his charge at his own request:

Priori domus Diestensis ad suam instantiam fit mia et P. Visitator provideat dictae domui ...¹⁸²

In 1642 the prior was confirmed in office:

D. Vincentio Knibbe a Reverendo Patre in Priorem ds Diestensis super annum instituto non fit mi[sericordi]a.¹⁸³

¹⁷⁶ De Grauwe 1997, 127.

¹⁷⁷ *Ibidem*, 127.

¹⁷⁸ De Grauwe 2000, 77.

¹⁷⁹ *Ibidem*, 77.

¹⁸⁰ De Grauwe 1997, 137.

¹⁸¹ *Ibidem*, 137.

¹⁸² De Grauwe 2000, 87.

¹⁸³ De Grauwe 1997, 145.

In 1644¹⁸⁴ and 1645¹⁸⁵ the prior was confirmed in office, but in 1649 there is the enigmatic entry:

Dispositionem Provinciae Teutoniae relinquimus Reverendo Patri.¹⁸⁶

In 1651 the prior was confirmed in office¹⁸⁷; but he had been replaced before the General Chapter of 1652, which decreed:

D. Gasparo Cox in priore domus Diestensis super annum a Conventualibus electo, ad suam instantiam fit misericordia, et praeficimus in Priore dictae domus D. Antonium Pecquium, prof. domus Capellae, et Coadiutorem in domo Bruxellensi, et Prior absolutus exerceat officium Procuratoris.¹⁸⁸

In 1653¹⁸⁹ and 1654¹⁹⁰ the prior was merely confirmed in office, whilst in 1655 the General Chapter decreed:

D. Josepho Doutellair prof ds. Bruxellensis a conventualibus ds. Diestensis super annum electo et a Reverendo Patre confirmato n[on] f[it] mi[sericordi]a.¹⁹¹

In 1659¹⁹² and 1660¹⁹³ the prior was merely confirmed in office, but strangely there does not appear to be an entry for Diest in the charta for 1661.¹⁹⁴ In 1662 the prior was confirmed in office¹⁹⁵, whilst in 1664 there was slight movement of personnel:

Priori domus Lyrae non fit misericordia ... Et D. Hermanus Bun revertatur ad domum Diestensem suae professionis

...

Priori domus Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a et D. Arnoldus Horione eat ad domum Lovanij.¹⁹⁶

In 1665 there was again slight movement of personnel:

Priori domus Monachorum Brugis non fit mi[sericordi]a ... Et D. Brunonem Clement prof. domus Diestensis a P.P. Visitoribus in Sacristam institutum confirmamus. Et D. Joannes Cool eat ad domum Diestensem

...

D. Carolo Meldert in Priorem domus Diestensem super annum a Conventualibus electo et a Reverendo Patre confirmato non fit mi[sericordi]a.¹⁹⁷

¹⁸⁴ De Grauwe 2000, 95: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia.*

¹⁸⁵ *Ibidem*, 103: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia.*

¹⁸⁶ *Ibidem*, 113.

¹⁸⁷ De Grauwe 1997, 155: *Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a.*

¹⁸⁸ De Grauwe 2000, 123.

¹⁸⁹ *Ibidem*, 132: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a.*

¹⁹⁰ De Grauwe 2000, 142: *Priori domus Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a.*

¹⁹¹ De Grauwe 1985b, 18.

¹⁹² *Ibidem*, 25: *Priori Diestensis n[on] f[it] mi[sericordi]a.*

¹⁹³ *Ibidem*, 32: *Priori Diestensis n[on] f[it] mi[sericordi]a.* Under the charterhouse of Ghent there is the entry: ... *et Franciscus Ghelcke vadat ad domum Diestensis ... (Ibidem, 32).*

¹⁹⁴ *Ibidem*, 39-40.

¹⁹⁵ De Grauwe 1997, 163: *Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a.*

¹⁹⁶ De Grauwe 2000, 150.

¹⁹⁷ *Ibidem*, 158.

In 1669 there was a good deal of movement of personnel:

Priori ds Lyrae non fit mi[sericordi]a et Fr. Joannes Martens don vadat ad domum Distensem [sic].¹⁹⁸

Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a et D. Anthelmus de Gheelcke ibidem vicarius eat ad domum Gandensem et ibidem exerceat idem officij vi[c]arij et Fr. Hugo Graets don revertatur ad domum suae donationis.

D. Hugoni de Molinghen in priorem ds Gandensis a Reverendo Patre super annum instituto non fit mi[sericordi]a.

Et D. Bruno Languedul ibidem procurator eat ad domum Distensem [sic] et ibidem exerceat officium procuratoris.¹⁹⁹

In 1670 there was further movement of personnel:

Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a et D. Bernardus Cox eat ad domum Lovanij et Fr. Joannes Martens revertatur ad domum Bruxellensem suae donationis

...

Priori ds Bruxellensis non fit mi[sericordi]a et D. Gerardus Fredriex revertatur ad domum Diestensem suae Professionis.²⁰⁰

In 1673 there was again minor movement of personnel:

Priori Capellae n[on] f[it] mi[sericordi]a ... et Hermanus Bun revertatur ad domum Diestensem ...

Priori Diestensis n[on] f[it] mi[sericordi]a et Bruno Langhedul eat ad domum Lyrae.²⁰¹

In 1674 the General Chapter decreed:

Priori Diestensis n[on] f[it] mi[sericordi]a et Gregorium Gheys a Patre visitatore super annum in vicarium institutum confirmamus.²⁰²

In 1675 the prior was merely confirmed in office²⁰³, whilst in 1677 it was decreed:

Priori Brugis ad suam instantiam f[it] mi[sericordi]a ... et prior absolutus eat ad domum Diestensem.

...

Priori Diestensem n[on] f[it] mi[sericordi]a et Gregorius Gheys revertatur ad domum Bruxellensem, suae professionis.²⁰⁴

In 1679 there were again certain shifts in personnel:

Priori Capellae n[on] f[it] mi[sericordi]a et Guillelmum van den Heel, prof Diestensis, in vicarium a P. Visitatore institutum confirmamus ...

...

Priori Diestensis alibi instituto f[it] mi[sericordi]a et praeficimus in priorem dictae domus Anthelmum Cottel, prof Lyrae

...

¹⁹⁸ De Grauwe 1997, 172.

¹⁹⁹ *Ibidem*, 172.

²⁰⁰ *Ibidem*, 181.

²⁰¹ De Grauwe 1985b, 45.

²⁰² *Ibidem*, 52.

²⁰³ *Ibidem*, 59: *Priori Diestensis n[on] f[it] mi[sericordi]a*.

²⁰⁴ *Ibidem*, 63.

Priori Bruxellensi senectute confecto ad suam instantiam f[it] mi[sericordi]a et praeficimus in priorem dictae domus Hugonem Gaethovium prof eiusdem, propterea a prioratu Diestensis absolutum ...²⁰⁵

In 1681 the General Chapter decreed:

Priori Diestensis n[on] f[it] mi[sericordi]a et Willibrordus Buckenberg prof et proc eiusdem domus eat ad domum monach. Brugis et ibi exerceat officium vicarii.²⁰⁶

In 1682 there was again slight movement of personnel:

Priori Diestensis n[on] f[it] mi[sericordi]a. Et Josephus Barrevelt redeat ad domum Lovanii, suae professionis.

...

Priori Lovanii n[on] f[it] mi[sericordi]a. ... Et Bruno van Ghastel eat ad domum Diestensem ...²⁰⁷

In 1700 the prior was merely confirmed in office²⁰⁸, likewise in 1724.²⁰⁹ In 1733 it was the turn of the rector to be confirmed:

D. Brunoni Cox prof ds Distensis [*sic*] a patribus visitoribus super annum in rectorem dictae ds instituto non fit mia.²¹⁰

In 1735 both the prior and the vicar were confirmed:

Priori ds Distensis [*sic*] non fit mi[sericordi]a et D. Onufrium du Bois prof ds Capellae a patribus Visitoribus super annum in Vicarium institutum confirmamus.²¹¹

In 1740 there was considerable fluctuation of personnel:

Priori ds Distensis [*sic*] non fit mi[sericordi]a et D. Franciscus Snyers exerceat officium vicarii et D. Bruno van Nieuwenhuysen revertatur ad domum Lovanii suae professionis et D. Bernardus Garemijn coadjutor revertatur ad domum Gandavi suae professionis et D. Egidius Timmermans vadat ad domum Lovanii.²¹²

In 1742 it was merely stipulated:

Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a et D. Josephus Imbrechts vadat ad domum Lovanii.²¹³

In 1793 Dom George Keuler was appointed prior of Diest and confirmed in office in 1794, 1795 and 1796.²¹⁴

²⁰⁵ De Grauwe 1985b, 70-71.

²⁰⁶ *Ibidem*, 78.

²⁰⁷ *Ibidem*, 84.

²⁰⁸ De Grauwe 1997, 188: *Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a*.

²⁰⁹ *Ibidem*, 197: *Priori ds Diestensis non fit mi[sericordi]a*.

²¹⁰ *Ibidem*, 204.

²¹¹ *Ibidem*, 213.

²¹² *Ibidem*, 221.

²¹³ *Ibidem*, 230.

²¹⁴ Cfr. Hogg 2007-2008, vol. 3, 386: *D. Georgio Kenler professo domus Monachorum Gosnay et priori domus Sancti Audomari in priorem domus Diestensis a Reverendo Patre instituto non fit misericordia*. Confirmed as prior, *Ibidem*, 391 (1794): *Priori domus Diestensis non fit misericordia*. *Ibidem*, 395, for 1795. *Ibidem*, 400, for 1796. Unfortunately, there are otherwise no entries for Diest in Hogg 2007-2008, as the relevant provincial *chartae* were not available for Dom Palémon Bastin.

It is hoped within the near future to fill in the gaps in the publication of the *chartae*, which will allow a more complete picture, particularly for the later centuries. At the moment one can say that Carthusian life at the charterhouse of Diest seems to have been fairly tranquil. There were occasional upheavals due to political events and warfare in the area, but the existence of the charterhouse was seldom seriously threatened. Diest does not seem to have played a prominent role even within its own province. The prior was only twice called upon to serve on the Diffinitory of the General Chapter, and, indeed, he never filled any of the minor offices there, as far as the published records reveal. A prior of Diest served as provincial con-visitor 1518-1521 and another 1566-1572. The charterhouse had its share of misfits, who could not support the solitude, but scandals were rare, and one has the impression that the monks were, on the whole, committed to their vocation, even if there is little evidence of the heroism of the first Carthusians in the wilderness of the Chartreuse mountains.

Appendix.

Entry for Diest in the *Nouvelle Bibliographie Cartusienne*²¹⁵

DIEST

MONT SAINT JEAN BAPTISTE À ZEELHEM - DOMUS MONTIS SANCTI JOHANNIS BAPTISTAE - SINT-JANSBERG TE ZELEM BIJ DIEST

(Commune de Zelem, Limbourg, Belgique)

La chartreuse fut fondée en 1328 par Gérard, seigneur de Diest et son épouse Jeanne de Flandres. Ils ont eu comme co-fondateur le seigneur Jan van Raetshoven. Le premier prieur, Jan van Meldert, commença la construction de la maison dès 1329. Jusqu'en 1368 la situation matérielle ne fut pas brillante, à tel point que le Chapitre Général s'en inquiéta en cette année. Au 15^e siècle cette situation s'améliora, mais le Schisme d'Occident eut une influence désastreuse sur la vie de la maison. La communauté resta fidèle au Pape de Rome. La maison fut pillée en 1461 et en 1465. Les religieux se retirèrent dans une maison de refuge à Diest. Peu après ils purent rentrer et vivre en paix durant un siècle. En 1583 la maison fut incendiée par les troupes du Prince d'Orange. En 1602 on commença la restauration et on put de nouveau vivre un siècle sans événements graves. Dès 1787 la vie devint de nouveau périlleuse à cause des patriotes, et en 1792 à cause de l'invasion des Français. Les moines s'enfuirent en Allemagne, mais purent rentrer en 1794. Le 14 septembre 1796 ils furent chassés de leur maison.

Imprimés

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²¹⁵ [Cette bibliographie, qui fut réalisée sous la direction des chartreux Augustin Devaux et Gabriel van Dijck notant les ouvrages publiés jusqu'à l'an 2003 (inclus), parut exclusivement sur CD-Rom en 2005 à l'usage de l'Ordre. J. Hogg reproduisit la partie sur la chartreuse de Zelem contenant des imprimés comme des sources manuscrites dans la première version de son article. Dans cette nouvelle version, les rédacteurs ont fait quelques interventions: ils ont rendu les références bibliographiques des études imprimées plus intelligibles et corrigé de petites imperfections sous silence; de plus, ils y ont ajouté des imprimés oubliés ainsi que des imprimés publiés depuis la parution de la bibliographie précitée sur CD-Rom. D'autre part, ils ont omis les sources manuscrites (archives et bibliothèque) dont la liste est fort incomplète et, pour cette raison, peu importante dans ce contexte. - EDS]

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- 1924 H.J.J. Scholtens, 'Jan van Brederode, convers der kartuizers bij Diest', dans: *Historisch tijdschrift* 3 (1924), 8-29.
- 1925 H.J.J. Scholtens, 'Uit een testament van 1436', dans: *Het Boek* 14 (1925), 67-68. – Rombout Boom, prêtre à Malines, légue des tableaux et de l'argent à la chartreuse de Zelem près Diest, avant d'y entrer.
- 1926 H.J.J. Scholtens, 'Gozewijn Comhair, kartuizer en bisschop van IJsland (†1447). Een bijdrage tot zijn biographie', dans: *Archief voor de geschiedenis van het aartsbisdom Utrecht* 52 (1926), 101-173.
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Supplément [EDS]

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