

ZIEGLER LECTURE

Thursday, Sept. 5, 16:45 to 18:00

Coffee & cookies will be served
at St. John's College

Free and open to the public

**The Beginning of Christine de Pizan's
Livre de la Cité des Dames and the
End of the *Romance of the Rose***

Holy Fortresses

Christine de Pizan's *Livre de la Cité des Dames* is a female answer to misogynistic discourses in general, and an answer to the idea of fulfilled

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male love in particular. The French authoress erects through her writing a metaphorical city reigned by the Virgin Mary that is to shelter all virtuous and chaste women. Her book is being inspired and composed in the closed space of her study room or "cell". Thus she rewrites the narrative of what she calls "a facetious pilgrimage" to the desired female body as fortress in the end of the *Romance of the Rose*. She opposes her female view of sexuality and sacrality to the male ones expressed especially in Jean de Meun's *Romance of the Rose*.

