

# Eucharistic Miracle of BOIS-SEIGNEUR-ISAAC

BELGIUM, 1405



In the Eucharistic miracle at Bois-Seigneur-Isaac, the consecrated Host bled and stained the corporal.

On May 3, 1413, the Bishop of Cambrai, Peter d'Ailly, authorized the devotion of the Holy Relic of the miracle along with a solemn procession. The first procession took place in 1414. On January 13th, 1424, Pope Martin V approved the building of the Monastery of Bois-Seigneur-Isaac. Today the monastery is the goal of pilgrimages. The corporal stained with Blood is exposed to view in the chapel.



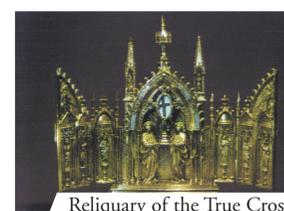
Choir of the Chapel of the Holy Blood



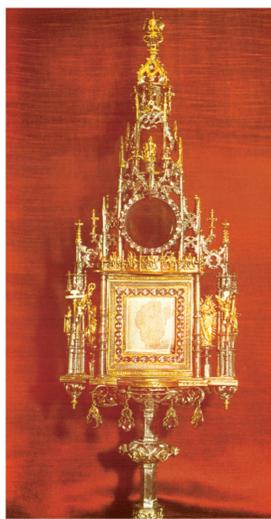
Premonstratensian Abbey, Chapel of the Holy Blood



Main Altar, Laurent Delvaux (18th century)



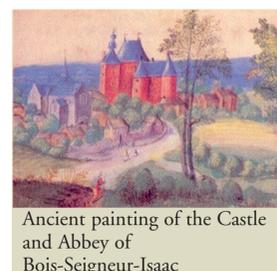
Reliquary of the True Cross



Reliquary of the Eucharistic miracle, corporal stained with Blood



Reliquary of a Thorn from the Crown of Jesus



Ancient painting of the Castle and Abbey of Bois-Seigneur-Isaac



Interior of the Chapel of the Holy Blood



Picture of the altar where the curé of Haut-Ittre celebrated the Holy Mass where the miracle was verified



Sanctuary of the Holy Blood, Reliquary Chapel

Starting on the Tuesday before Pentecost of the year 1405, the Lord appeared covered with His wounds to John of Huldenberg, master of the place. Only at the third apparition did our Lord speak ordering John "Go into the Chapel of Isaac, you will find Me there." At the same time, the parish priest, Peter Ost, heard a voice instructing him to offer the Mass of the Holy Cross in the Chapel of Isaac. The following day the pastor summoned all the faithful to assist at Mass at the Chapel of Isaac.

John of Huldenberg was among those present. The priest began the Mass, and when he unfolded the corporal he saw there a Particle of the large Host that had been consecrated the preceding Tuesday. He sought to receive the Host but the Eucharist clung to the corporal and began to

Bleed. The priest turned white and John, who had observed everything, comforted him by saying: "Do not fear, this marvel comes from God", and related his visions.

*For four days,* that is until Tuesday after Pentecost, the Blood continued to flow, reaching the length of a finger in three breadths. Then, having stained the entire corporal, the Blood coagulated little by little and dried up. The miracle was seen and attested to by many. The Bishop of Cambrai, Peter d' Ailly, was informed of what happened and he decided to investigate personally and had the corporal in his care for some two years. Every attempt to remove the stains of Blood on the corporal were useless.

The Bishop opened an investigation where testimonies were gathered regarding the prodigies wrought by the reliquary of the precious Blood. On June 16, 1410, the Bishop granted an indulgence of 40 days to those who visited the Chapel at Bois-Seigneur-Isaac. On May 3, 1413, he allowed the corporal to be venerated as a relic and established a solemn procession in honor of the miracle, along with public exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Even today, every year on the Sunday following the Feast of the Birth of Mary, the citizens of Bois-Seigneur-Isaac come together in prayer to celebrate the memory of this Eucharistic miracle.

# The Most Precious Blood of Jesus

## BRUGES

BELGIUM



The oldest documents concerning the Holy Blood of Bruges date back to 1256. The Holy Blood probably was part of a group of relics of the Passion of Christ preserved at the Imperial Museum of Bucoleon in Constantinople (modern Istanbul). In 1203 Constantinople was besieged and conquered by the crusaders. Baldovin IX, Count of Flanders, after being crowned as the new emperor, sent the relic of the Precious Blood to his native country at Bruges.



Relic of the Most Precious Blood



A knight pretending to be the Count of Flanders bringing back the Most Precious Blood



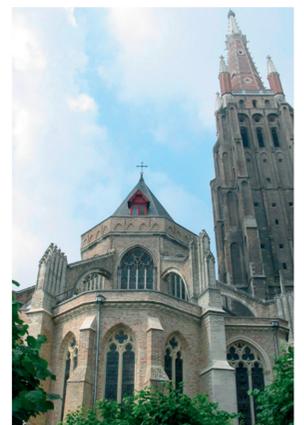
Procession in honor of the Most Precious Blood



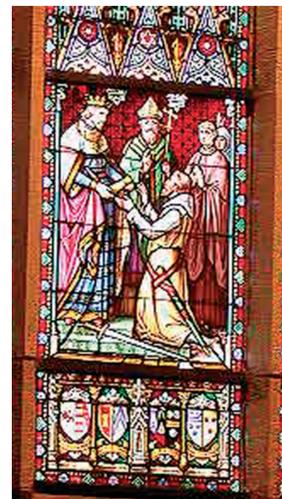
Church of the Most Precious Blood



Interior of the Church of the Most Precious Blood, Bruges



Detail of Bruges



Recent analyses were made on the crystal bottle containing the Holy Blood. The bottle has been dated as of the 11th century. It is also sure it was made in an area near by Constantinople. Although in the Bible there is no explicit mention that the Blood of Christ was ever preserved, in one of the Apocryphal Gospels it is narrated that Joseph of Arimathea preserved some drops of the Blood of Christ.

*According to an ancient tradition* Count Diederik van den Elzas brought the bottle containing the Blood of Christ from Jerusalem to Bruges during the second crusade. Recent investigations however have pointed out that the relic arrived in Bruges at a later date, probably around 1250 coming from Constantinople.

The veneration of the relic is at the origin of the internationally famous procession that is held every year through the streets of the city on the day of the Feast of the Ascension.

The citizens of Bruges dress in historical customs and reenact biblical scenes and the arrival of the Count of Flanders who brought the holy relic.

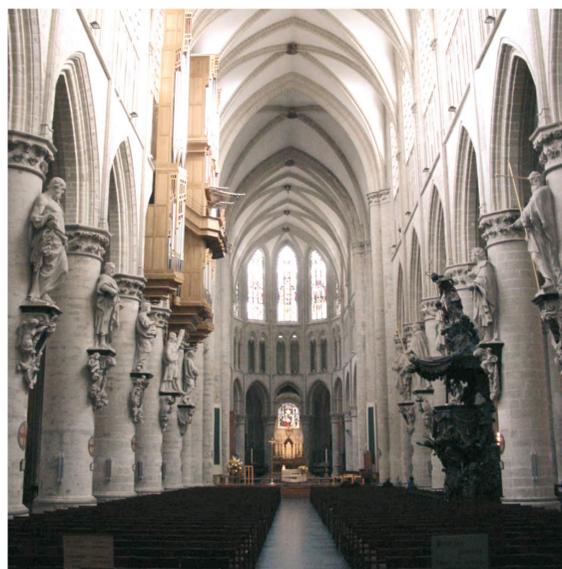


# Eucharistic Miracle of BRUSSELS

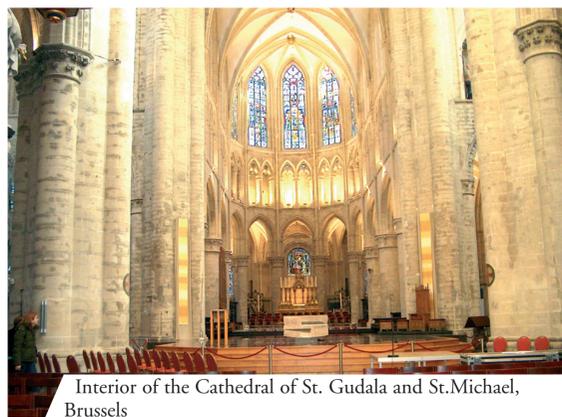
BELGIUM, 1370



In the Cathedral of Brussels there are many artistic testimonies to a Eucharistic miracle verified in 1370. Desecrators stole Hosts and struck at them with knives as a way of showing their rebellion. From these particles came a flow of living blood. This miracle was celebrated up until some decades ago. There are many reliquaries of different eras that were used to contain the miraculous Hosts of the miracle of the Blessed Sacrament. They have been kept to this day in the museum close to the cathedral in an ancient chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. There are tapestries of the 18th century which represent the miraculous event.



Cathedral of St. Gudala and St. Michael, Brussels



Interior of the Cathedral of St. Gudala and St. Michael, Brussels



The Eucharistic Miracle at Brussels. Héron Museum, Paray-le-Monial



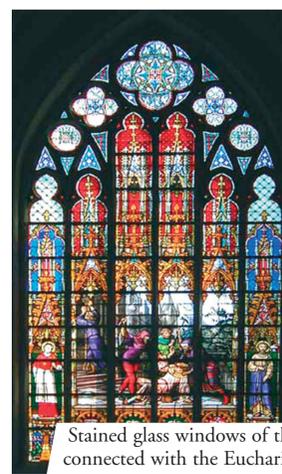
Section of a stained glass window in the Cathedral of St. Gudala and St. Michael, in which the Eucharistic miracle is depicted



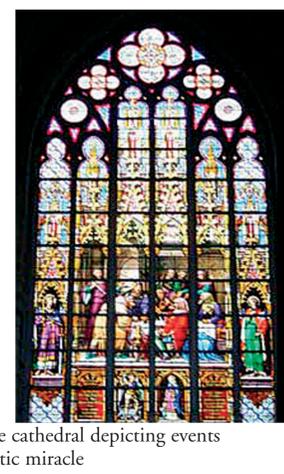
Old prints that portray the miracle



Lot DE SVY sijn hebben in het doot slegen som wien doode sijn stonde het bloet wteken. Dit sijn swaert der bouwe de Eucharistie sur les



Stained glass windows of the cathedral depicting events connected with the Eucharistic miracle



The five stained glass windows that grace the side nave of the cathedral take us through stages of the Eucharistic miracle. They were installed at various times from 1436 to 1870. The Kings of Belgium, Leopold I and Leopold II, presented the first windows on the lower level. The others were gifts from various noble families of the country.

The first ten windows represent the story as it came to Brussels in the middle of the 15th century. The ancient document reads : “In 1369 a rich merchant from Enghien who hated the Catholic religion, had some consecrated Hosts stolen. He worked with a young man from Louvain (on windows 1-3). The merchant was assassinated mysteriously a few days later. His widow, surmising it was a punishment from Heaven, got rid of the Hosts by giving

them to friends of her husband. These friends were filled with hatred of things Catholic.

“On Good Friday 1370, the friends met and began to slash the Hosts with knives, and the Hosts began to bleed! The desecrators were badly frightened and entrusted the Hosts to an important Catholic merchant.

*“This merchant revealed* the whole story to the curate of the Church of Notre Dame. The curate took possession of the Hosts and the desecrators were condemned to death by the Duke of Brabant. The Hosts were taken in procession to the cathedral of St. Gudula”. The Eucharistic miracle remains an important part of the traditions of Brussels and is something of a national symbol.

# Eucharistic Miracle of HERENTALS

BELGIUM, 1412



In the Eucharistic miracle of Herentals, some Hosts that had been previously stolen were found after eight days, and perfectly intact, in spite of the rain. The Hosts were found in a field near a rabbit burrow, surrounded by a bright light and arranged in the form of a cross. Every year, two paintings of Antoon van Ysendyck, depicting the miracle, are taken in procession to the field where a small shrine, *De Hegge*, was built. Here a commemorative Mass is celebrated before numerous people. The two paintings are presently kept in the Cathedral of Sint-Waldetrudiskerk, Herentals.



Church of San-Waldetrudis, Herentals



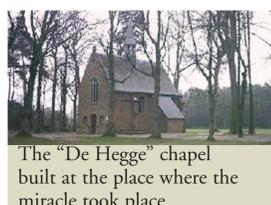
A. Van Ysendyck (1801-1875). A series of paintings by "Het wonder van de Hegge" – *The Holy Miracle of the Fence*, Church of San Waldetrudis



Painting of Van Ysendyck depicting the miracle



Interior of the Church of San-Waldetrudis



The "De Hegge" chapel built at the place where the miracle took place



In 1412, a certain Jan van Langerstede went for lodging to a hotel not far from the little city of Herentals. This professional man was stealing sacred objects from churches and selling them all over Europe. The day after his arrival at Herentals, he went to the nearby village of Poederle. He entered the parish church and without being noticed, stole the chalice and the ciborium containing five consecrated Hosts. As he was returning to Herentals in the place known as "De Hegge" ("the fence"), he felt as if pulled by a mysterious force that was keeping him from continuing his journey. So he tried to get rid of the Hosts by throwing them into the river, but his every attempt to do so was useless. Jan was on the verge of despair when he saw a field not very far away with a big rabbit burrow where he straightaway hid the Hosts. The task took place

without any trouble, and the man was able to peacefully return to Herentals. In the meantime, the city judge, Gilbert De Pape, began an investigation to discover the author of the theft in the church of Poederle. Among the suspects was our Jan. The police searched his luggage and found the chalice and the ciborium.

*Jan then confessed* everything except the fact that he had thrown the Hosts away. He was to be immediately hanged, and Jan had already climbed the scaffold when, encouraged by the priest to cleanse his soul before dying, completely confessed his guilt. The judge then suspended the execution and ordered Jan to indicate the exact place where he had left the Hosts. A large crowd followed them. As soon as they arrived at the field, they saw the Hosts all

radiant, arranged in the form of a cross. Strangely, the Hosts remained intact, notwithstanding the weather, and they were at once brought back in procession, some to Herentals and some to Poederle, where they remained until the 16th century. On January 2, 1441, the miracle was declared authentic by the magistrate of Herentals. At the place where the Hosts were found a small chapel was built which was visited by numerous prelates, such as Jean Malderus, Bishop of Anvers in 1620, and Pope Benedict XIV in 1749. The daughter of John of Lussembourg, Elizabeth Van Görlitz, paid for the enlargement of the chapel, which later on was transformed into a shrine.

# Eucharistic Miracle of

# HERKENRODE-HASSELT

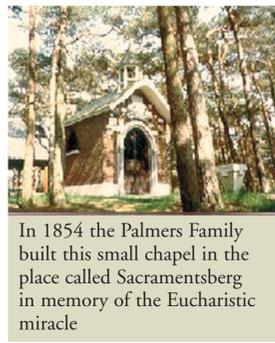


BELGIUM, 1317

In the Cathedral of St. Quintinus in Hasselt is exposed the relic of the Eucharistic miracle that took place in Herkenrode in 1317. During the course of the centuries, many tests were done to ascertain the miraculous preservation of the consecrated Host from which Blood flowed. We recall the test done in the 18th century by the Apostolic Nuncio Carafa and the Bishop of Liège or the one done by the Archbishop of Malines during a visit of the Archduchess Isabel. In the cathedral we also find numerous paintings depicting the miracle, done by a pupil of Jordaens, Jan van Boeckhorst.



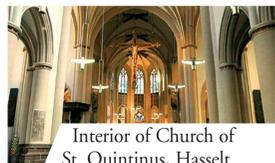
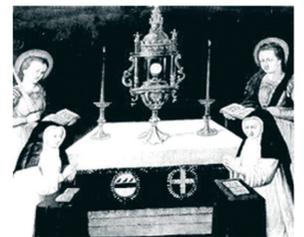
Church of St. Quintinus in Hasselt



In 1854 the Palmers Family built this small chapel in the place called Sacramentsberg in memory of the Eucharistic miracle



Paintings by Jan van Boeckhorst depicting the scenes of the miracle, Cathedral of Hasselt



Interior of Church of St. Quintinus, Hasselt



The main altar in the Church of St. Quintinus, Hasselt



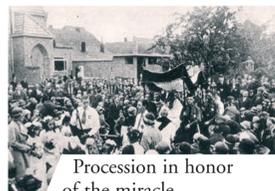
Painting kept in the Cathedral of Hasselt where the flock can be seen respectfully kneeling at the passing of the priest carrying the Sacred Reliquary in the place called Sacramentsberg



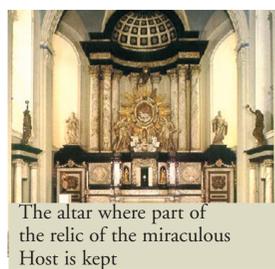
Monstrance used to carry the relic of the miraculous Host in procession



An ancient document describing the miracle



Procession in honor of the miracle



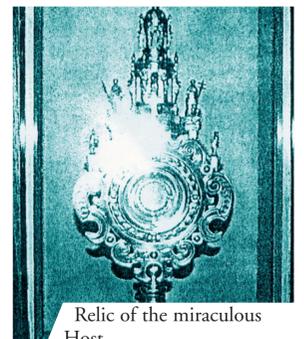
The altar where part of the relic of the miraculous Host is kept



Detail of the miraculous Host



Old prints depicting the miracle



Relic of the miraculous Host

**O**n July 25, 1317, the pastor of the church in Viversel was called to the bedside of one his parishioners who was seriously ill, to receive the holy sacraments. Upon his arrival at the house of the sick person, he rested his handbag containing the consecrated Host on a table at the entrance and went to hear the confession of the sick person. One of the family members, curious about the handbag, opened it without being noticed. From it he pulled out the pyx, opened the cover and put his hand into it. As soon as he realized that inside there was a Host, he put everything back in order. In the meantime, the priest came out from the room of the sick person to take out the Host with which to give him Communion. He took the handbag with the pyx inside, and when he opened it he saw that the Host he himself had consecrated during Mass

was stained with Blood and was in some way stuck to the linen that covered the bottom of the container. Troubled and panic-stricken with the excuse that he had forgotten something, he rushed out of the house and went to the pastor of nearby Lumen to tell him what had happened. The latter advised him to bring the Particle to the Abbey of Herkenrode. It was August 1, 1317.

*The priest left,* taking the pyx with him. Along the road, extraordinary things happened. As soon as he arrived at the Benedictine monastery, he showed everybody the Host stained with Blood. Then, the face of Christ crowned with thorns appeared on the Host. This was attested to by numerous witnesses. In the Cathedral of Hasselt there is a painting

in which there is depicted a flock kneeling as the priest, carrying the sacred relic, passes by. In this place, called Sacramentsberg, a chapel was built as a perpetual memorial. From that time on, "the Blessed Sacrament of the Miracle," which had been placed in a reliquary and exposed to public veneration, more than once protected the monastery of Herkenrode from fire. The reliquary of the miracle was kept at the Abbey until 1796, and in 1804, it was transferred to the Church of St. Quintinus in Hasselt.

# The Establishment of the Feast of CORPUS CHRISTI

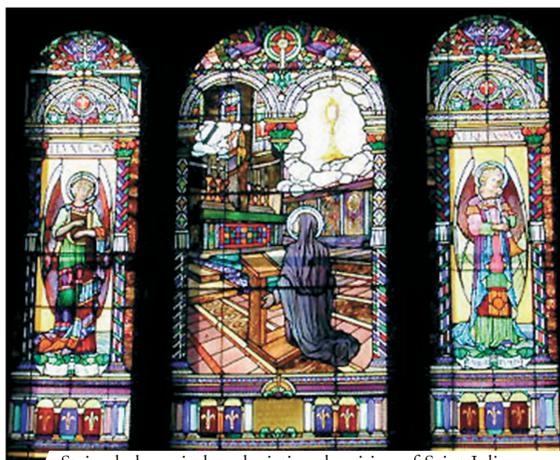
LIÈGE, BELGIUM, 1374



“Even though the Eucharist is solemnly celebrated every day of the year, on one day we pay special honor to the Body of Christ. We may, of course, invoke the Lord with our minds and our spirits at any time, but we do not in this way obtain the Real Presence of Christ. With the Eucharistic commemoration, however, Jesus Christ is actually present with us in his own substance. As the risen Christ told us prior to his Ascension: ‘And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.’ (Mt.28, 20) ...He would remain and be with them even by His bodily presence.” Pope Urban IV: *TRANSITURUS DE HOC MUNDO*



Monstrance that is kept in the Sanctuary of Saint Juliana, Liège



Stained glass window depicting the vision of Saint Juliana



Saint Juliana

**B**lessed Juliana of Cornillon, who lived in 13th century Belgium, had a vision in which she saw a full moon darkened in one spot. She heard a mysterious, heavenly voice state that the moon represented the Church at that time, and the dark spot showed that a great feast in honor of Corpus Christi was missing from the liturgical calendar. She reported this vision to the local ecclesiastical authority, the Archdeacon of Liège, Jacques Panteléon, who was later to become Pope Urban IV.

*In 1246*, the Bishop of Liège, Roberto of Thourotte, established within his diocese a feast in honor of the Holy Sacrament, and it was celebrated for the first time on June 5, 1249. In 1264, Pope Urban IV (the former Archdeacon of Liège, to whom Blessed Juliana reported her

vision) issued a papal bull extending the celebration to the universal Church. He also commissioned St. Thomas Aquinas to compose the Office for the Mass and Liturgy of the Hours for the feast.



# *Eucharistic Miracle of* **MIDDLEBURG-LOVANIO**

BELGIUM, 1374



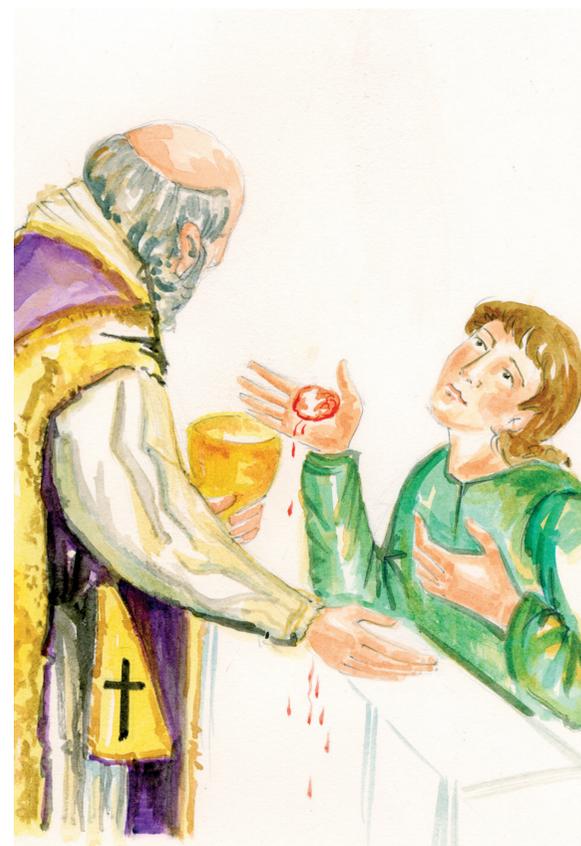
This Eucharistic miracle goes back to 1374. In St. Peter's Church in Middleburg, during Holy Communion the consecrated Host changed into bleeding Flesh. A portion of the Host to this day is kept in Louvain by the Augustinian Fathers. The monk, Jean de Gheest, confessor of the Archbishop who approved the cult, asked for the Precious Relic as a gift. The other portion is in St. Peter's Church in Middleburg.



Painting depicting the miracle, Church of St. James, Louvain



Altar where the miracle took place



Church of St. James in Louvain



There exists much documentation on the Eucharistic miracle. In a monograph written in 1905 by historian Joseph Wils, professor of the Catholic University of Louvain, entitled *Le Sacrement du Miracle de Louvain*, are cited almost all the contemporary documents and testimonies. In Middleburg lived a noble woman known by everybody for her great faith and devotion. The woman was also very attentive to the spiritual formation of her family and household staff. During the Lent of 1374, as she did every year in her house, she began to do penance in preparation for the coming of Easter. A few days before, a new manservant by the name of Jan was hired, who had not gone to confession for many years, in spite of the dissolute life he was living. The woman invited all the household staff to

go to Mass. Jan did not dare oppose this invitation so as not to disappoint her. He attended the whole Eucharistic celebration, and when it was time to receive Holy Communion, the man approached the altar with much superficiality.

*As soon as he received* the Host on his tongue, the Sacrament changed into bleeding Flesh. At once Jan took the Particle from his mouth; Blood dripped from the Sacred Flesh onto the cloth covering the altar rail. The priest realized at once what was happening, and with great emotion, carefully placed the miraculous Particle in a vessel inside the tabernacle. Jan repented and confessed his sin before everyone. From that day on, he led an exemplary life and nourished a great devotion to the Most Blessed

Sacrament to the end of his life. All the church and civil authorities of the city were informed of the miraculous event and after diligent investigation the Archbishop authorized the cult of this miraculous event.