

# Eucharistic Miracle of ST. PETER DAMIAN



ITALY, ELEVENTH CENTURY

A sorceress asked a woman to bring her a consecrated Host. The woman went to Mass and during Communion she managed to hide a Host in her handkerchief. The priest noticed what happened and ran after the woman and ordered her to show him what she was hiding. The woman opened the handkerchief, and to their surprise they saw that half of the stolen Particle had been transformed into Flesh and the other half looked like the Host.



St. Peter Damian



Hermitage of Fonte Avellana, where St. Peter Damian lived

In his *Opuscul. XXXIV; Patrol. Lat.*, tom. CXLV. col. 573, St. Peter Damian, a Doctor of the Church, describes an important Eucharistic miracle of which he was a direct witness. We present the Italian translation of the episode as the Saint himself describes it: "This is a Eucharistic event of great importance. It took place in 1050. Giving in to a horrible temptation, a woman was about to take the Eucharistic Bread home to use the Sacred Species for sorcery. But a priest noticed what she had done and ran after her, taking away from her the Host she had sacrilegiously stolen. Then he unfolded the white linen cloth in which the sacred Host had been wrapped and found that the Host had been transformed in such a way that Half had become visibly the Body of Christ, while the other Half preserved the normal look of a Host. With such a clear testimony, God wanted to win over unbelievers and heretics who refused to accept the Real Presence of the Eucharistic mystery: in one half of the consecrated bread the Body of Christ was visible, while in the other the natural form, thus highlighting the reality of the sacramental transubstantiation taking place at the Consecration."

# Eucharistic Miracle of SCALA



ITALY, 1732

In 1732 for more than three consecutive months there appeared signs of our Lord's Passion in the consecrated Hosts. This marvelous event took place during exposition of the Most Holy Sacrament in the monastery of the Most Holy Redeemer of Scala in the presence of numerous testimonies, among whom was St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori, the great Doctor of the Church.



Venerable Maria Celeste Crostarosa



Interior of the monastery church



Monstrance of the miracle



Monastery of the Most Holy Redeemer, Scala

The venerable Sister Maria Celeste Crostarosa founded the Monastery of the Most Holy Redeemer together with St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori. Every Thursday the Most Blessed Sacrament was exposed in the monastery for public adoration. From September 11, 1732, for three consecutive months, during the solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the signs of the Passion of Christ appeared in the Host contained in the monstrance. All this can be confirmed not only by the nuns and the people but also by Bishop Santoro of Scala and by the Bishop of Castellamare. The apparition occurred also in the presence of St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori. Bishop Santoro wrote a letter to Bishop Simonetti, Apostolic Nuncio of Naples, in which he described all the details related to the visions that took place in the Sacred Host that had been exposed. In turn, the Nuncio forwarded the letter to Cardinal Barbieri, then Secretary of State.

# *Eucharistic Miracle of* **DRONERO**

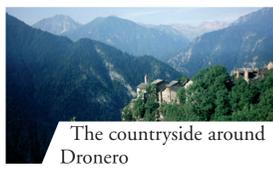
ITALY, 1631



In 1631, a young farm girl foolishly kindled a fire with dry hay. Because of a heavy wind, the fire spread to the town of Dronero. Every attempt to extinguish the flames proved useless. A Capuchin friar, Maurice da Ceva, inspired by his great love of the Blessed Sacrament, took the monstrance containing the large Host from the Church of St. Brigid and in procession walked to where the fire was raging. The fire at once subsided.



In the afternoon of Sunday, August 3, 1631, a great fire broke out in the commercial district of Saluzzo in the town of Dronero. A young farm girl foolishly kindled a fire with dry hay at the very moment an upwind was developing into a thunderstorm. The flames quickly and violently spread to the home of the Borgo Maira. The townspeople desperately attempted to extinguish the fire, but all their efforts proved useless as the fire developed further. Friar Maurice da Ceva, a Capuchin, was inspired to have recourse to the power of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. He immediately organized a procession with the Blessed Sacrament, followed by all the townspeople, to the location of the fire. The moment the Blessed Sacrament arrived, the flames subsided and miraculously were extinguished! This miraculous event is described in details on a stone tablet in the small Church of St. Brigid. On the Feast of Corpus Christi, the citizens of Dronero keep alive the memory of this miracle with a solemn annual procession with the Blessed Sacrament.



The countryside around Dronero



Dronero



The chapel from which the Blessed Sacrament was taken. The stone tablet describes the miracle

# *Eucharistic Miracle of* **SAN MAURO LA BRUCA**

ITALY, 1969



At San Mauro la Bruca unknown thieves secretly entered the church and stole several sacred objects; one was the pyx (ciborium) that contained consecrated Hosts. The thieves threw the Hosts aside; a child discovered them. The Hosts are preserved to this day.



On the night of July 25, 1969, some thieves broke into the parish church of San Mauro la Bruca with the intention of stealing some of the more precious objects. After they had pried open the tabernacle, they took a ciborium containing many consecrated Hosts. Once they left the church, the thieves emptied the ciborium and threw the Hosts on a footpath. On the following morning a child noticed the pile of Hosts at the intersection of the road and gathered up the Holy Eucharist, immediately giving the Hosts to the pastor. It was only in 1994, after 25 years of detailed analysis, that Msgr. Biagio D'Agostino, Bishop of Vallo della Lucania, acknowledged the miraculous preservation of the Hosts and authorized the cult. The conclusion of any chemical and scientific analysis acknowledges that after just 6 months wheat flour severely deteriorates and in a few years turns gelatinous and then, finally, to dust.



Inside of the church



View of San Mauro la Bruca



The façade of the church of San Mauro



The niche where the miraculous Hosts are preserved

# Eucharistic Miracle of FERRARA

ITALY, 1171



This Eucharistic miracle took place in Ferrara, in the Basilica of Saint Mary in Vado, on Easter Sunday, March 28, 1171. While celebrating Easter Mass, Father Pietro da Verona, the prior of the basilica, reached the moment of breaking the consecrated Host. At this point he saw that Blood gushed from the Host, staining the ceiling of the crypt above the altar with droplets. In 1595 the crypt was enclosed within a small shrine and is still visible today in the monumental Basilica of Santa Maria in Vado.



Church of Saint Mary in Vado, Ferrara



Bodini, *The Miracle of the Blood*. Painting on the ceiling near the shrine



Detail of the vault ceiling stained with Blood



The ceiling crypt stained with Blood



Bull of Eugene IV (1442)



John Paul II pauses before the ceiling vault in Ferrara



Interior of the basilica



Shrine that encloses the Holy Vault Ceiling (1594). Right side of the cross

On March 28, 1171, the prior of the Canons Regular Portuensi, Father Pietro da Verona, was celebrating Easter Mass with three confreres (Bono, Leonardo and Aimone). At the moment of the breaking of the consecrated Host, Blood gushed forth from the Host and threw large drops on the ceiling of the small crypt above the altar. Histories tell of the “holy fear of the celebrant and of the immense wonder of the people who crowded the tiny church.” There were many eyewitnesses who told of seeing the Host take on a Bloody color and having seen in the Host the figure of a Baby. Bishop Amato of Ferrara and Archbishop Gherardo of Ravenna were immediately informed of the event. They witnessed with their own eyes the miracle, namely “the Blood which we saw redden the ceiling of the crypt.” The church immediately

became a pilgrim destination, and later was rebuilt and expanded on the orders of Duke Ercole d’Este beginning in 1495.

*There are many sources* regarding this miracle. Among the most important is the Bull of Pope Eugene IV (March 30, 1442), in which the pontiff mentions the miracle in reference to the testimonies of the faithful and ancient historical sources. The 1197 manuscript of Gerardo Cambrense, conserved in Canterbury’s Lambeth Library is the oldest document that mentions the miracle. The miracle received recent attention in the “Gemma Ecclesiastica” (Budding of the Church) by historian Antonio Samaritani. Another document which dates to March 6, 1404, is the Bull of Cardinal Migliorati, in which he grants indulgences to

“those who visit the church and adore the Miraculous Blood.” Even today, on the 28th day of every month in the basilica, which is currently under the care of Saint Gaspare del Bufalo’s Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood, Eucharistic Adoration is celebrated in memory of the miracle. And every year, in preparation for the Feast of Corpus Christi, the solemn Forty Hours devotion is celebrated. The eighth centenary of the miracle was celebrated in 1971.

# Eucharistic Miracle of FLORENCE

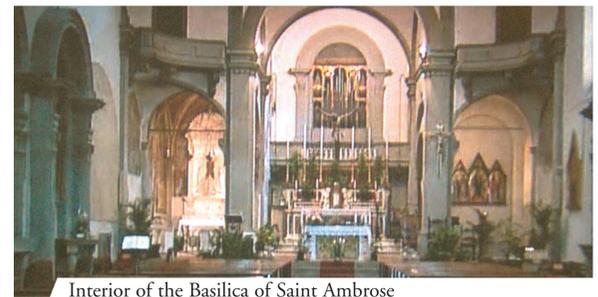
ITALY, 1230-1595



The reliquaries of two Eucharistic miracles which took place in 1230 and 1595 are held in Florence's Church of Saint Ambrose. In the miracle of 1230, a distracted priest left several drops of consecrated wine in the chalice after Mass. The next day, returning to celebrate Mass in the same church, he found in the chalice drops of living Blood coagulated and incarnated. The Blood was immediately placed in a crystal cruet. The other Eucharistic miracle took place on Good Friday in 1595, when several fragments of the Host were miraculously unharmed in a church fire.



Basilica of Saint Ambrose, Florence



Interior of the Basilica of Saint Ambrose



Precious tabernacle, done by Mino da Fiesole, where the reliquaries of the two miracles are kept



Details of the tabernacle where the reliquaries of the two Eucharistic miracles are stored



Fresco in the basilica depicting the first miracle that took place in 1230, showing the priest Ugucione carrying the Blood in procession

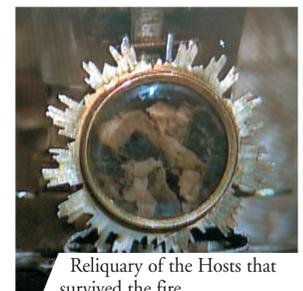


Chiesa di S. Ambrogio  
in cammino  
verso il Congresso Eucaristico  
e  
il Giubileo del 2000  
29 Maggio 1997  
"CORPUS DOMINI"

Miracolo Eucaristico - 1230 -



Reliquary of the drops of wine transformed into living Blood



Reliquary of the Hosts that survived the fire

The first miracle took place on December 30, 1230. A priest named Ugucione, having finished celebrating Mass, did not realize that several drops of consecrated wine remained in the chalice and had turned into blood. The historian, Giovanni Villani, gives a precise description: "A day later, taking up the chalice, he found living blood coagulated [...] and this was shown to all the women of the monastery and to all the locals who were present, to the bishop, and to all the clergy. And then the Precious Blood was revealed to all the Florentines, who gathered with great devotion to see. He took the Precious Blood from the chalice and put the Sacred Species in a crystal cruet and again showed the people, with great reverence." Bishop Ardingo of Pavia ordered that the reliquary be brought to him. He kept the Precious Blood for several weeks before returning

the miraculous Blood to the sisters of the monastery for safe-keeping near the Church of Saint Ambrose. Pope Boniface IX, in 1399, granted the same indulgence as the Portiuncula to those faithful who visited the Church of Saint Ambrose, and contributed to adorning the reliquary of the miracle. The 750th anniversary of the miracle was celebrated in 1980. The relic of the coagulated Blood (several drops of Blood that measure about a square centimeter) is conserved in a reliquary which has been placed inside a white marble tabernacle constructed by Mino da Fiesole.

*On Good Friday in 1595,* a lit candle on the altar of a side chapel called the Sepulchre, fell to the ground and started a fire. The people immediately rushed to put out

the fire and succeeded in saving the Blessed Sacrament and chalice. In the great commotion, six fragments of consecrated Hosts fell from the pyx onto the smoldering carpet, but despite the fire these were found intact and joined together. In 1628, Archbishop Marzio Medici of Florence examined the fragments of the Hosts, which he found to be incorrupt. He had the Sacred Species placed in a precious reliquary. Every May during the Forty Hours devotion, the two reliquaries are exposed together in a reliquary that also contains a consecrated Host for public adoration.

# Eucharistic Miracle of GRUARO (VALVASONE)

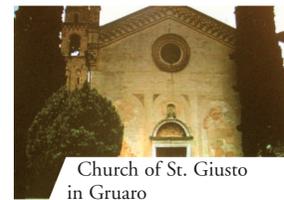


ITALY, 1294

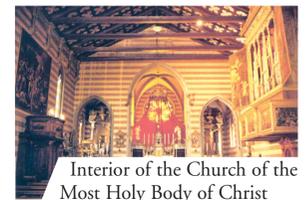
Among the most authoritative documents which describe the Eucharistic miracle which took place at Gruaro in 1294 is that of local historian Antonio Nicoletti (1765). A woman was washing one of the altar linens of the Church of St. Giusto in the public wash house of Versiola. Suddenly she saw the altar linen become tinged with Blood. Observing more closely, she noted that the Blood was flowing from a consecrated Particle remaining among the folds of the cloth.



The Blood-stained linen cloth is kept in the Church of the Most Holy Body of Christ in Valvasone



Church of St. Giusto in Gruaro



Interior of the Church of the Most Holy Body of Christ



Detail of the corporal



Church of Gruaro. Rose window depicting the miracle



Maira Stream



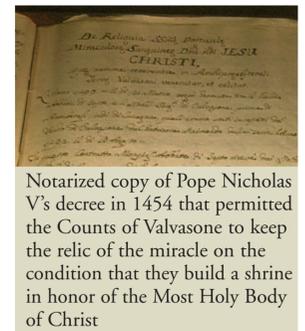
Exact place of the River Maira where the woman washed the cloth of the miracle



Large memorial built to recall the miracle and the reconciliation between Gruaro and Valvasone



Reliquary built by a Venetian craftsman in 1755



Notarized copy of Pope Nicholas V's decree in 1454 that permitted the Counts of Valvasone to keep the relic of the miracle on the condition that they build a shrine in honor of the Most Holy Body of Christ

The relic of this miracle is kept in the Church of the Most Holy Body of Christ in Valvasone, but the miracle happened in Gruaro. In 1294, a young housemaid went to the public wash-house of Versiola to wash the altar linens of the Church of St. Giusto in Gruaro. Suddenly, the woman noticed that a consecrated Host had remained by mistake among the folds of the cloth and that Blood was flowing from the Host. Frightened by this inexplicable event, she immediately ran to alert the pastor who then informed the Bishop of Concordia, Giacomo di Ottonello from Cividade. The Bishop, having learned the facts, asked to be able to keep the cloth of the miracle in his Cathedral in Concordia. However, the pastor of Gruaro and the family of the Counts of Valvasone, patrons of the churches of Gruaro and

of Valvasone, wanted to keep the cloth. No agreement was reached, and so it was decided to seek recourse with the Holy See. In the end, Rome let the Counts keep the relic, on the condition that they would build a church dedicated to the Most Holy Body of Christ. The construction of the church was completed in 1483.

*The oldest and most* authoritative document describing the miracle is a decree of Pope Nicholas V written in 1454. The title of the parish church, formerly St. Mary and St. John the Evangelist was thereby changed to the Church of the Most Holy Body of Christ (March 28, 1454). Today, the cloth is kept in a crystal cylinder, held by a precious reliquary of silver made by master craftsman Antonio

Calligari. The celebration of the Holy Cloth is commemorated on the 5th Thursday of Lent, at the end of days of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with the participation of the priests and of the community of Valvasone. During the celebration of Corpus Christi, the reliquary is carried in procession with the Most Blessed Sacrament.

# Eucharistic Miracle of LANCIANO

ITALY, 750 A.D.



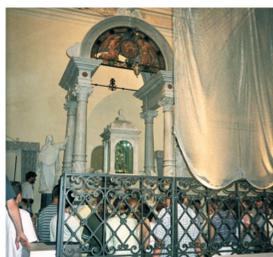
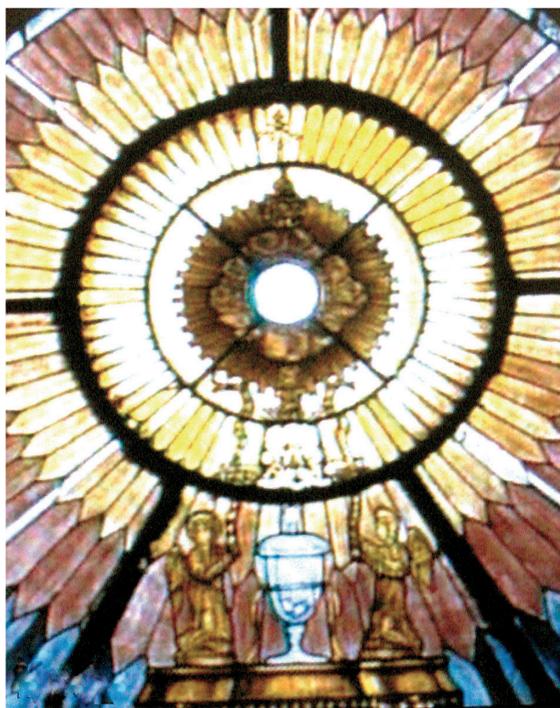
An inscription in marble from the 17th century describes this Eucharistic miracle which occurred at Lanciano in 750 at the Church of St. Francis. “A monastic priest doubted whether the Body of Our Lord was truly present in the consecrated Host. He celebrated Mass and when he said the words of consecration, he saw the host turn into Flesh and the wine turn into Blood. Everything was visible to those in attendance. The Flesh is still intact and the Blood is divided into five unequal parts which together have the exact same weight as each one does separately.



Monstrance containing the Holy Relics



Relic of the wine which was transformed into Blood



Painting located in the Valsecca chapel which depicts the miracle



Stone tablet from 1631 which describes the miracle



In 1970, the Archbishop of Lanciano and the Provincial Superior of the Conventual Franciscans at Abruzzo, with Rome's approval, requested Dr. Edward Linoli, director of the hospital in Arezzo and professor of anatomy, histology, chemistry, and clinical microscopy, to perform a thorough scientific examination on the relics of the miracle which had occurred twelve centuries earlier. On March 4, 1971, the professor presented a detailed report of the various studies carried out. Here are the basic results:

1. The “miraculous Flesh” is authentic flesh consisting of muscular striated tissue of the myocardium.
2. The “miraculous Blood” is truly blood. The chromatographic analysis indicated this with absolute and indisputable certainty.
3. The immunological study shows with certi-

tude that the flesh and the blood are human, and the immuno – hematological test allows us to affirm with complete objectivity and certitude that both belong to the same blood type AB – the same blood type as that of the Shroud and the type most characteristic of Middle Eastern populations.

4. The proteins contained in the blood have the normal distribution, in the identical percentage as that of the serous-proteic chart for normal fresh blood.

5. No histological dissection has revealed any trace of salt infiltrations or preservative substances used in antiquity for the purpose of embalming. Professor Linoli also discarded the hypothesis of a hoax carried out in past centuries. This report was published in *The Sclavo Notebooks in Diagnostics* (Collection #3, 1971) and aroused

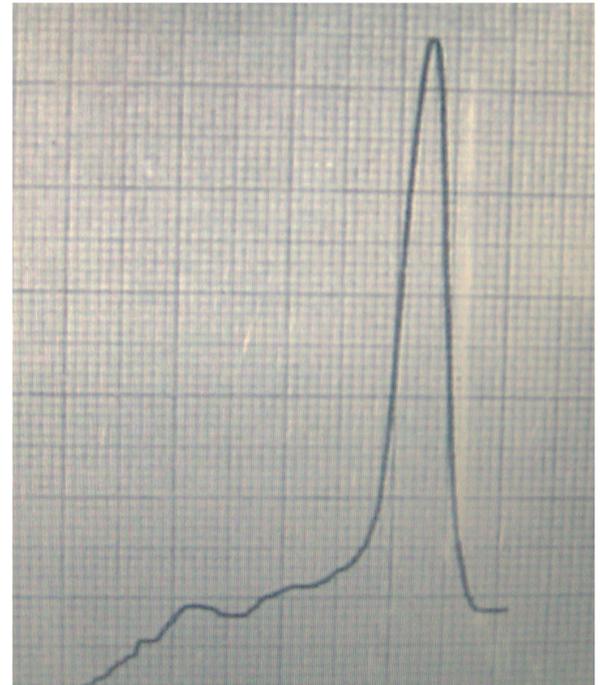
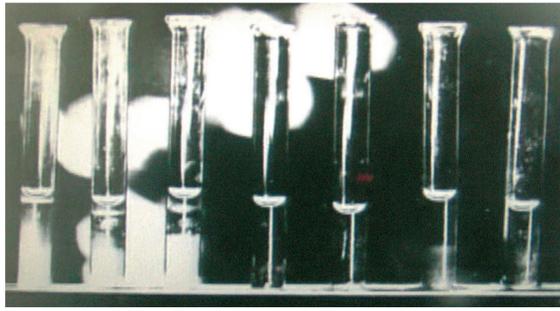
great interest in the scientific world. Also, in 1973, the chief Advisory Board of the World Health Organization appointed a scientific commission to corroborate Linoli's findings. Their work lasted 15 months and included 500 tests. It was verified that the fragments taken from Lanciano could in no way be likened to embalmed tissue. As to the nature of the fragment of flesh, the commission declared it to be living tissue because it responded rapidly to all the clinical reactions distinctive of living beings. Their reply fully corroborated Professor Linoli's conclusions. In the extract summarizing the scientific work of the Medical Commission of the WHO and the UN, published in Dec. 1976 in New York and Geneva, declared that science, aware of its limits, has come to a halt, face to face with the impossibility of giving an explanation.

# Eucharistic Miracle of LANCIANO

ITALY, 750 A.D.



*The Flesh and the Blood of Lanciano therefore are just the same as they would be if they had been drawn that very day from a living being.*



Graph of the electrophoresis of the proteins of the Blood of the miracle. The profile of the protein fractions from the serum could be superimposed on a standard specimen of fresh blood



The reliquary from the 18th century containing the Host and the coagulated Blood, gift of the generous citizen Domenico Coli



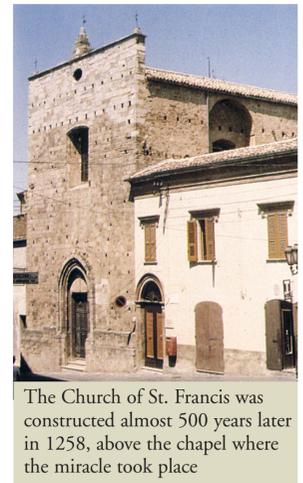
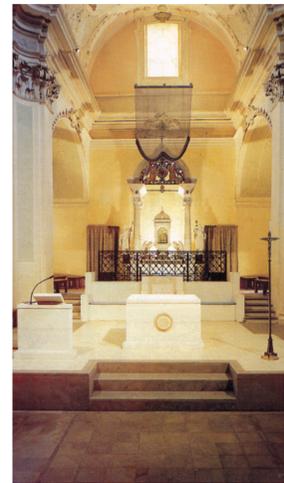
The 5 clots of Blood as seen with a magnifying glass. In the Blood of the miracle can be recognized all the components present in fresh blood, and the miracle within the miracle, each of the 5 clots of Blood weighs 15.85 grams, which is the identical weight of the 5 clots weighed together !



The muscular fiber cells



Histological view of the Flesh



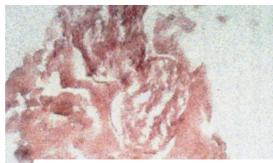
The Church of St. Francis was constructed almost 500 years later in 1258, above the chapel where the miracle took place



The flesh consists of part of the myocardium, more precisely of the left ventricle. The arteries and veins can be easily identified, as well as a double, slender branch of the vagus nerve. At the time of the miracle, the flesh was living and then submitted to the law of rigor mortis.



The miracle was the object of several official acknowledgements on the part of the ecclesiastical authorities between 1574 and 1886, not to mention most recently in 1970, when it was subjected to a scientific examination carried out by professors from the University of Siena, which concluded: "The Flesh is true human flesh (formed by muscular tissue from the heart); the Blood is true blood (belonging to the same blood type, AB, as the flesh); the component substances are those of human tissues, normal and fresh. The conservation of the Flesh and the Blood, left in their natural state for twelve centuries and exposed to the influence of atmospheric and biological elements, remains an extraordinary phenomenon" (The Linoli Report 4131971).



A vagus nerve



Analysis of the Host. Endocardial structures



A small lobe of adipose tissue



Il Sommo Pontefice Giovanni Paolo II allora Cardinale di Cracovia davanti alle Ss. Reliquie, così espresse la Sua devozione. 3. XI. 1979



Cubical lattice in gold-plated cast iron in which the relics were preserved for almost 266 years, today returned to the Valsecca family chapel



An antique painting depicting the Miracle

# Eucharistic Miracle of MACERATA

ITALY, 1356



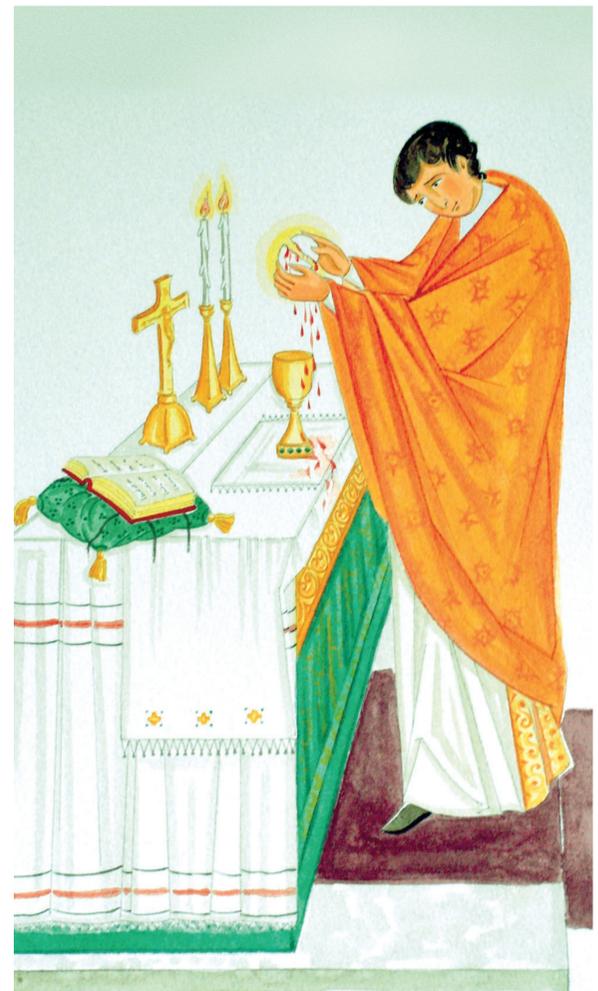
On April 25 1356, at Macerata, a priest whose name is not known was celebrating Mass in the chapel of the Church of St. Catherine, owned by the Benedictine monks. During the breaking of the Eucharistic Bread before Holy Communion, the priest began to doubt the Real Presence of Jesus in the consecrated Host. Precisely at the moment in which he broke the Host, to his great surprise, he saw flow from the Host an abundance of Blood which stained part of the corporal, and the chalice placed on the altar.



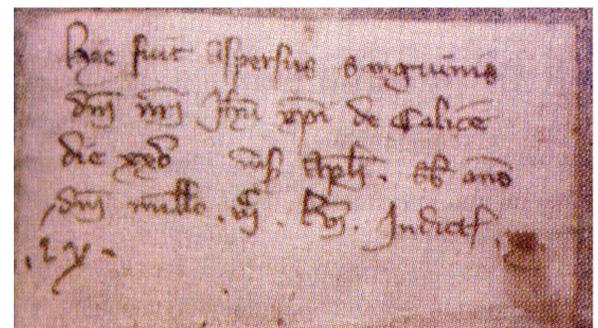
Macerata Cathedral



Relic of the Blood-Stained Corporal



View of Macerata

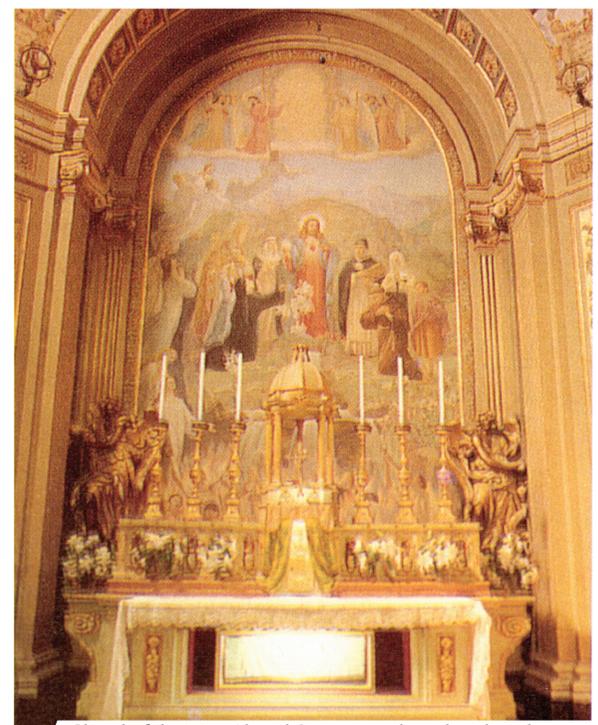


Small parchment from 1356 on which is written: "Here came the flow of Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ from the chalice on April 25 in the Year of Our Lord 1356"

At Macerata in the church of the Cathedral of Holy Mary Assumed and St. Giuliano, under the altar of the Most Holy Sacrament, it is possible to venerate the relic of the "corporal marked by Blood." Also preserved in this church is the parchment on which the miracle is described. Furthermore, the historian Ferdinando Ughelli cited this miracle in his work *Sacred Italy* of 1647 and describes how since the fourteenth century "the corporal has been carried in solemn procession through the city, enclosed in an urn of crystal and silver, with the concurrence of all Piceno." All of the documents likewise agree in the description of how the miraculous facts occurred. An anonymous priest, during the Mass, was struck with strong doubts about the reality of the transubstantiation, and when he broke the Great Host, he saw blood drop from

the Host and fall onto the corporal and chalice. The priest immediately informed Bishop Nicholas of San Martino, who ordered that the relic of the Blood-stained cloth be carried into the cathedral and he instituted a regular canonical process.

*In 1493* one of the first confraternities in honor of the Most Blessed Sacrament was instituted at Macerata (1494) and it was here that the pious practice of Forty Hours was established in 1556. Every year on the occasion of Corpus Christi, the corporal of the miracle is carried in procession behind the Most Blessed Sacrament.



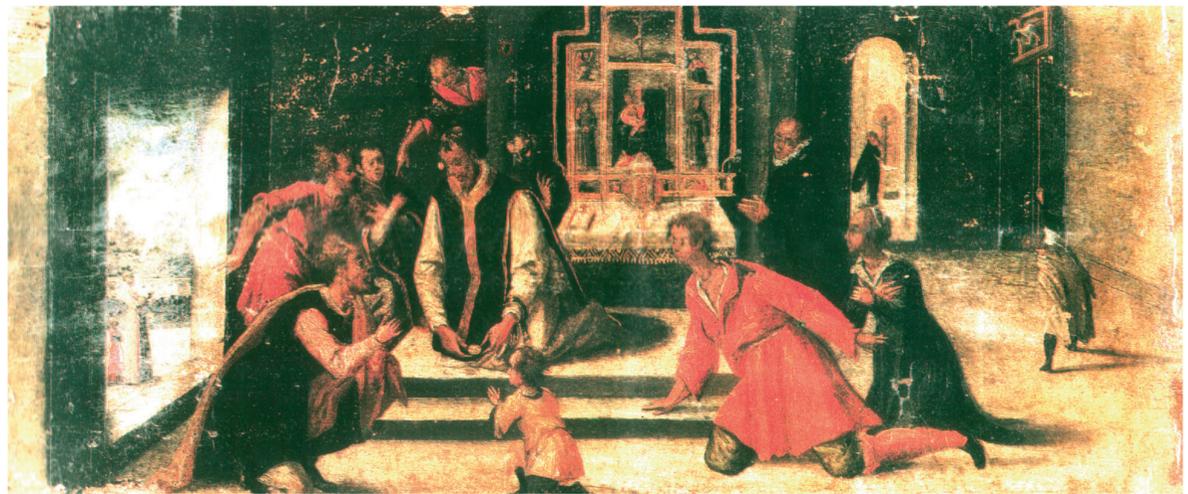
Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament where the relic is kept

# Eucharistic Miracle of MOGORO

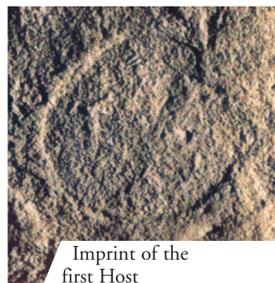
ITALY, 1604



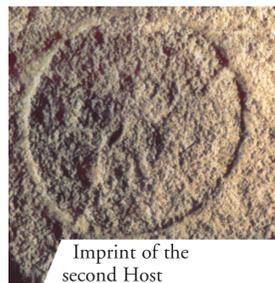
In April 1604, a Eucharistic miracle took place in Mogoro that was described by the historian Pietro M. Cossu. During Mass, two men in mortal sin dropped two Hosts on the ground, leaving imprints of the Hosts on the stone floor. To commemorate this event and in reparation for the sacrilege, there is a solemn Eucharist procession every year in Mogoro on the Sunday after Easter.



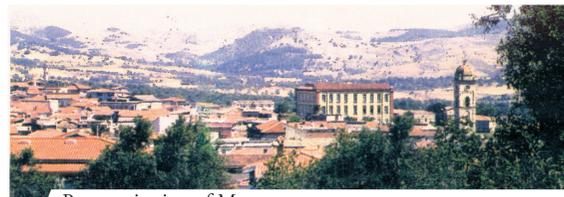
Eucharistic Miracle of Mogoro, Francesco Pinna (1604 - 1607)



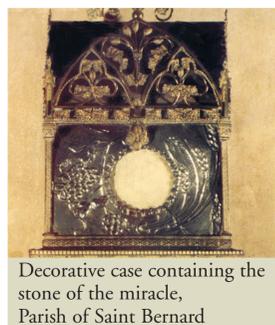
Imprint of the first Host



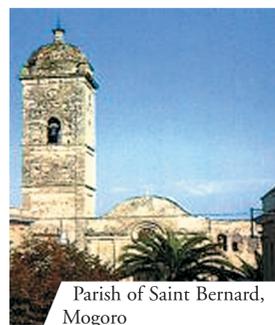
Imprint of the second Host



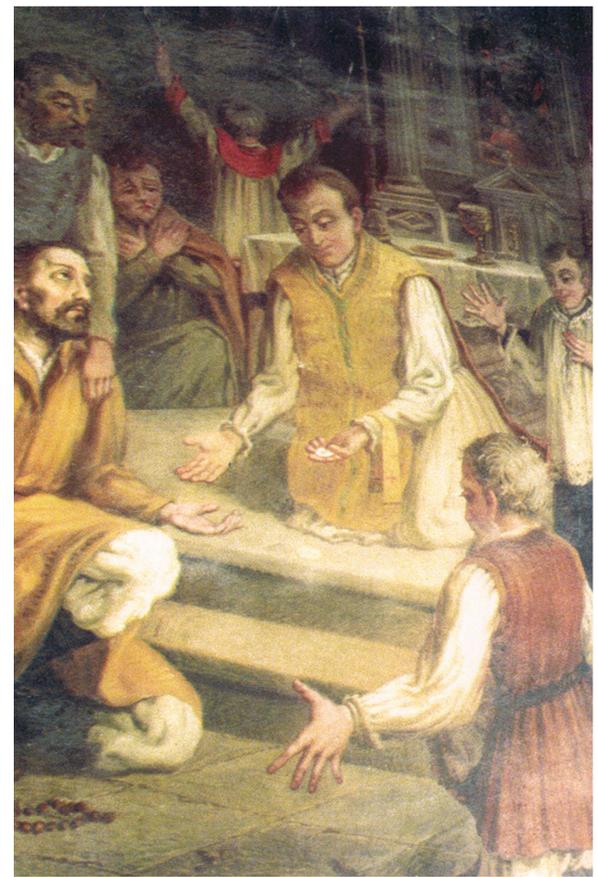
Panoramic view of Mogoro



Decorative case containing the stone of the miracle, Parish of Saint Bernard



Parish of Saint Bernard, Mogoro



In Mogoro on the Italian island of Sardinia, on the Monday after Easter in 1604, Father Salvatore Spiga, pastor of the church of Saint Bernard, was celebrating Mass. After the consecration he began distributing Holy Communion to the faithful. At a certain point, he saw in the Communion line two men who were well-known for the dissolute lives they led. The pastor gave them Holy Communion and as soon as they had taken the Host in their mouths, they spit the Holy Eucharist out on the stone floor below the altar rail. The two men justified themselves by saying that the Hosts had become as hot as burning embers, and that the Blessed Sacrament was burning their tongues. Then, taken by remorse at not first having gone to Confession, they ran away. Father Salvatore

went to gather the Sacred Hosts that had fallen and saw that the imprints of the Sacred Hosts remained in the stone as if they had been sculpted there. He ordered the stone to be thoroughly washed in the hope that the imprints would be erased. But every attempt failed miserably. Many historians, including Father Pietro Cossu and Father Casu, described the findings made by the bishop at that time, Antonio Surredo, and by his successors.

*Among the most important documents that confirm the miracle is a public act written by the notary Pedro Antonio Escano on May 25, 1686, in which the rector of Mogoro stipulates a contract for the construction of a wooden tabernacle over the main altar. At the base of the tabernacle,*

there was to be an opening for the “stone of the miracle,” which was to be enclosed in a decorative case and placed in such a way that the faithful could see it. The stone bears the imprint of the Hosts to this day.

# Eucharistic Miracle of MORROVALLE

ITALY, 1560



In 1560 at Morrovalle, a huge fire destroyed the church of the Franciscans but spared a large Host contained in a pyx (which was also completely burned except for the lid). The Eucharistic miracle's Fourth Centenary was celebrated in 1960, and the City Council unanimously decided to place at Morrovalle's main gate the inscription, "Civitas Eucaristica" (Eucharistic City).



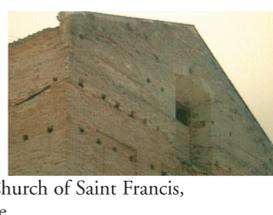
Church of Saint Bartholomew



Reliquary of the miracle



Convent annexed to the Church of Saint Francis, where the miracle took place



Morrovalle procession in honor of the miracle



The Bull "Holy Roman Church," of Pope Pius IV (1560) confirming the miracle



In Morrovalle, at about two o'clock in the morning of April 17, 1560, during the octave of Easter, Brother Angelo Blasi awoke with a start at the sound of violent crackling. Looking out the window of his cell, he saw the church was completely engulfed in flames, and he immediately ran to notify the other brothers. The fire was extinguished after seven hours, and in the following days began the work of clearing the massive pile of church ruins. On April 27, Father Battista da Ascoli was removing a piece of marble from what used to be the main altar and discovered the pyx in a wall cavity. Its corporal was scorched but the consecrated Host was still intact and in good condition. Father Battista shouted at the sight of the miracle, and many people immediately ran to the marvelous sight. For three entire days, the Blessed

Sacrament was exposed for public adoration. When Franciscan provincial Father Evangelista da Morro d'Alba finally arrived, the miraculous Host was placed in an ivory case.

*The then-bishop* of Bertinoro, Ludovico di Forlì, was immediately sent by Pope Pius IV to Morrovalle to investigate the authenticity of the event. As soon as he received the bishop's account, Pope Pius IV judged the occurrence to be without natural cause, and he authorized public devotion with the Bull "Holy Roman Church" (1560). The Bull proclaims the anniversaries of the fire and the discovery of the sacred Host (April 17 and 27) as feasts with plenary indulgences (so that they were known locally as the feasts "of the two pardons"). Because of the many faithful who came to the

celebrations, the church was later expanded. Today, the feasts are celebrated with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and of the pyx on the main altar. The pardons, namely the plenary indulgences, are available at the church of Saint Bartholomew. The miraculous Host was conserved intact until 1600 but due to the vicissitudes of history every trace of it was later lost. All that remains today is the glass ciborium and the pyx lid which survived the flames.