

Eucharistic Miracle of TURIN

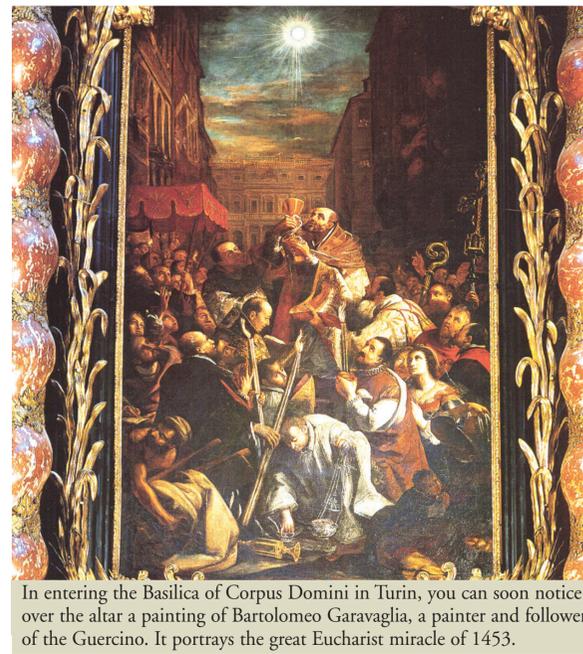
ITALY, 1453



Inside the Corpus Domini Basilica in Turin, there is an iron railing that closes in the place where, in 1453, the first Eucharistic miracle of Turin occurred. An inscription inside the railing describes the miracle: “Here the she-mule that was carrying the Divine Body fell prostrate; here the Sacred Host was miraculously freed from the bag containing the Sacred Species and rose high; here came gently down among the suppliant hands of the people of Turin; here then, the place made holy by the miracle. Remembering, pray on your knees. (June 6, 1453)”.



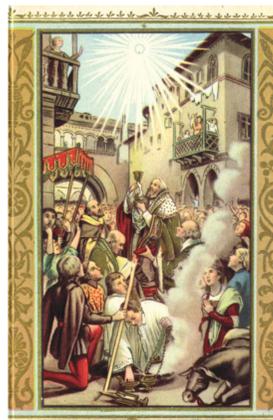
Interior of the Corpus Domini's Basilica



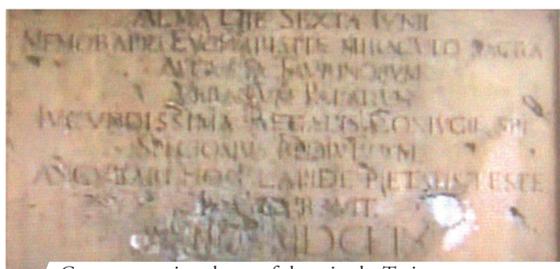
In entering the Basilica of Corpus Domini in Turin, you can soon notice over the altar a painting of Bartolomeo Garavaglia, a painter and follower of the Guercino. It portrays the great Eucharist miracle of 1453.



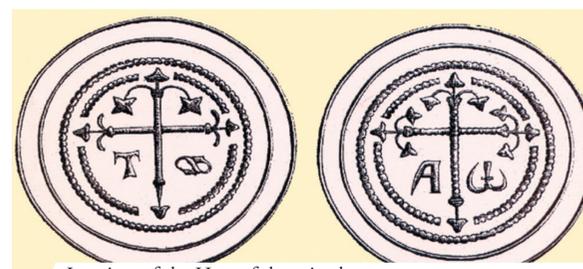
Representations of the miracle of Turin



Basilica of the Corpus Domini, Turin



Commemorative plaque of the miracle, Turin



Imprints of the Host of the miracle

In the Alta Val Susa, close to Exilles, the army of René D'Angiò met the army of the duke Ludovic of Savoy. Here the soldiers indulged in plundering the town and some of them entered the church. One of them forced open the little door of the tabernacle and stole the monstrance with the consecrated Host. He wrapped up all that he had stolen in a bag and headed for Turin on a mule. On the main plaza close to St. Sylvester's Church (now the Holy Spirit Church, where later the Church of Corpus Domini was built), the she-mule stumbled and fell. Then suddenly the bag fell open and the monstrance with the consecrated Host rose over the surrounding houses while the people were filled with wonder. Among those present there was also Don Bartholomew Coccolo. He ran with this news to the Bishop, Ludovic of the Romagnano's Marquises. The Bishop, accompanied

by a cortege of people and clergy, went to the plaza, prostrated himself in adoration and prayed with the words of the Emmaus disciples, “*Stay with us, Lord*”. Meanwhile a new miracle had happened; the monstrance had fallen on the ground, leaving the consecrated Host free and shining as a second sun. The Bishop who was holding a chalice in his hands lifted it up high, and the consecrated Host slowly started coming down and settled in the chalice.

The devotion for the miracle of 1453 was at once adopted by the town that first promoted the building of an aedicule on the place of the miracle, and then soon substituted by the church dedicated to the Corpus Domini. But the most significant display of this is expressed by the celebrations organized in occasion

of the centenaries and fiftieth anniversaries (1653, 1703, 1853, and partially 1803). The documents that describe the miracles are many. The most ancient are the three Capitulary Acts of 1454, 1455 and 1456, and some writings contemporary of the Turin Municipality. In 1853 the Blessed Pope Pius IX solemnly celebrated the fourth centenary of the miracle. In this celebration Saint John Bosco and Don Rua participated. Furthermore, Pius IX on this occasion approved the Office and the Mass Proper of the miracle for the Turin archdiocese. In 1928 Pius XI raised the Church of Corpus Domini to the dignity of minor basilica. In the XV century the Holy See gave the order to consume the Host of the miracle, “to not oblige God to make the miracle an eternal miracle by keeping always incorrupt, as they had been doing, those very same Eucharistic species”.

Eucharistic Miracle of TURIN

ITALY, 1453



Then suddenly the bag opened and the monstrance with the consecrated Host rose over the surrounding houses while the people were filled with wonder.



To house the miraculous Host, a tabernacle was built in the cathedral in 1455. The miraculous Host was removed from the tabernacle in 1492 when the works for the construction of the new edifice, planned by Meo del Caprino, were started. In 1528, on the spot where the miraculous event took place, the aedicule of Matthew Sanmicheli was built. It was decorated with paintings that were recalling the most important phases of the event. This edifice was replaced by the present church of Corpus Domini, which was started by Ascanio Vittozzi in 1604. The building of Corpus Domini was decided by the municipality in 1598 during the epidemic of the plague, and also to answer to a request made by the Holy Spirit Confraternity.



Miracolo del S. Sacramento seguito nella Città di Torino li 6 Giugno 1453.

Reproduction of the miraculous Host taken from the miracle of Turin illustrated on the occasion of the first international Eucharistic congress, Turin, Canonica Brothers Typography, 1894 (Simeon Collection, C 9200)



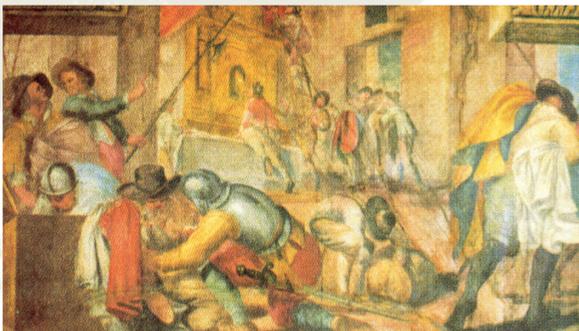
Luigi Vacca (1853), frescoes that decorate the basilica's vault and illustrate the stages of the miracle



Interior of Corpus Domini's Basilica



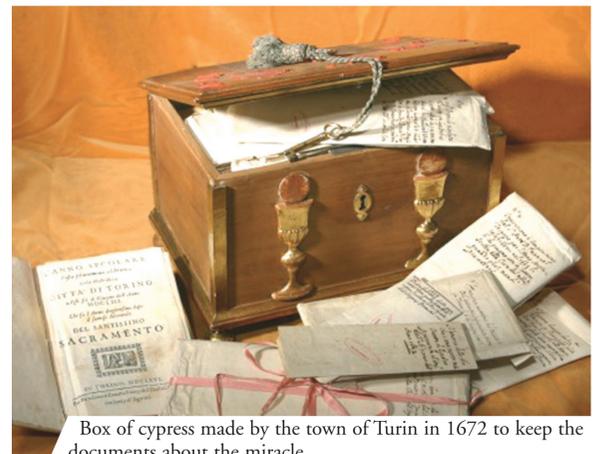
Chalice of the miracle of Turin



G.A. Recchi, frescoes that describe the miracle and that are at the town hall of Turin



Plaque where the mule fell down



Box of cypress made by the town of Turin in 1672 to keep the documents about the miracle

per non obbligare Dio a fare eterno miracolo col mantenere sempre incorrotte, come si mantengono, quelle stesse eucaristiche specie

Plaque on which it is said that the Host of the miracle was consumed, "to not oblige God to perform an eternal miracle..."



Anonymous, *Miracle of the Blessed Sacrament*, occurred in the very famous and glorious town of Turin, in the year 1453 on June 6 about 8:00 P.M., engraved plate attached to *The Secular Year* (Simeon Collection C 2412). The triptych illustrates the salient phases of the event: the stealing of the consecrated Host at Exilles, the falling down of the she-mule, the ascension of the Host, and its depositing into the chalice. The two lateral arches are surmounted by the city's coat of arms.



The iron with which the miraculous Host had been engraved was transferred to Turin from Exilles in 1673 and in 1684 it was donated to the municipality that still today keeps it among the deposits of the municipality's historic archives.

Eucharistic Miracle of TURIN

ITALY, 1640



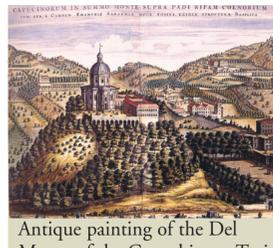
During the invasion by Count Harcourt's army, the soldiers entered the Church of St. Maria del Monte and killed many civilians. The lives of the Capuchin friars, however, were spared. A French soldier succeeded in opening the tabernacle which contained a ciborium with several consecrated Hosts. Flames of fire miraculously blazed out to envelop him - burning his face and his clothing. The door of the tabernacle which is adorned with agate and lapislazuli or blue stones still shows the imprint of the soldier's scorched hand.



The Capuchin Church of the Monte



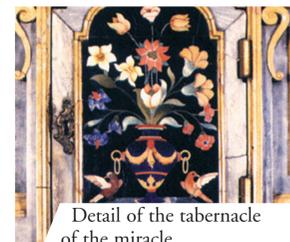
Interior of the Church



Antique painting of the Del Monte of the Capuchins at Turin



Ancient painting exhibited in the Church portraying the miracle



Detail of the tabernacle of the miracle

In 1640, the French army of Count Harcourt crossed the River Po and advanced to the Capuchin Friars' Church of the Monte. Friar Pier Maria da Cambiano, a Capuchin friar, describes in great detail the Eucharistic miracle that occurred during the French troops' occupation of the Church of Santa Maria del Monte.

The region of Piedmont was overrun with foreign troops. After Casale Monferrato was liberated from the Spaniards, the French advanced to Turin. On May 6, 1640 they arrived at Chieri, on the 7th at Moncalieri, and on the 10th they finally reached Turin. Having occupied the left bank of the Po River, they launched an offensive attack and gained control of the bridge. From there they advanced to the Capuchin Monastery of the Monte. However, it was not that

secure a position. On the morning of May 12, they launched a double attack on the trenches. They were twice repelled. On the third assault, however, our troops were compelled to lay down their arms and flee with the civilian population to seek shelter and safety in the sanctuary of a holy place the church.

The invaders, nevertheless, entered the church and slaughtered the men and women, the young and the old, civilians and troops alike; even those who braced themselves onto the altars or who took refuge in the arms of the Capuchin friars. They pleaded for their lives and for their freedom. None of the friars were wounded but their hearts were distraught at the sight of so much bloodshed and carnage. The soldiers trashed sacred vessels and vestments

and they sacked the friary since the refugees had stored some of their household items and furniture for safe keeping. And after, in the church itself (too horrible to recount!) they committed brutal acts of debauchery!

As if all that were not enough, a French soldier, who was an unbeliever, climbed onto the altar and forced open the tabernacle to seize the ciborium and the sacred Hosts it held in order to desecrate the Hosts. And then, a miracle!! A flame of fire blazed out of the ciborium directly onto the sacrilegious Frenchman; it scorched his uniform and his face! The terrified soldier threw himself to the floor screaming and asking God's forgiveness. The church was suddenly filled with dense smoke. Between the terror and the astonishment felt by all, the vandalism ceased!

Eucharistic Miracle of VEROLI

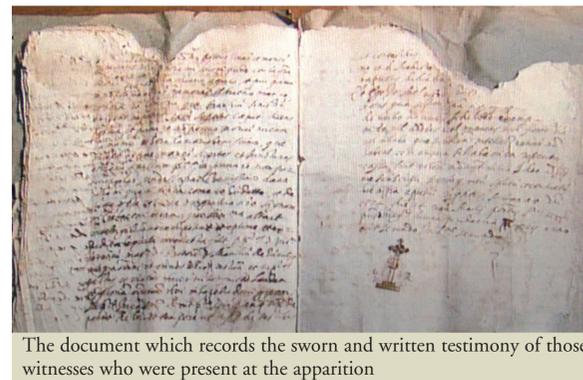
ITALY, 1570



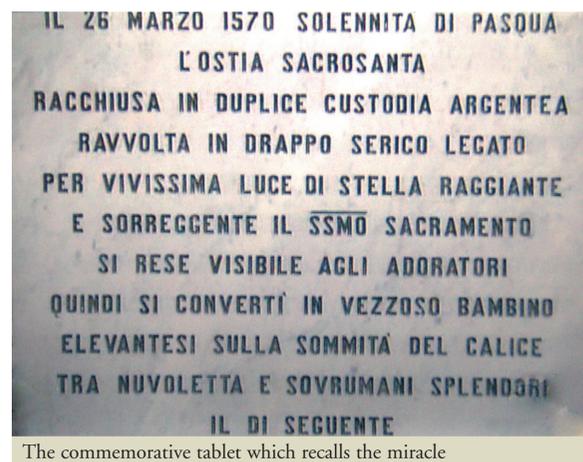
During Easter of 1570 in the Church of St. Erasmus in Veroli, the Blessed Sacrament was exposed (at the time, the Blessed Sacrament was first placed in a round pyx and then placed in a large chalice, covered with a paten) for the Forty Hours of public adoration. The Child Jesus appeared in the exposed Host and manifested many graces. Today, the chalice where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed is kept in the same Church of St. Erasmus and is used once a year at the celebration of Mass on Easter Tuesday.



Old print depicting the miracle



The document which records the sworn and written testimony of those witnesses who were present at the apparition



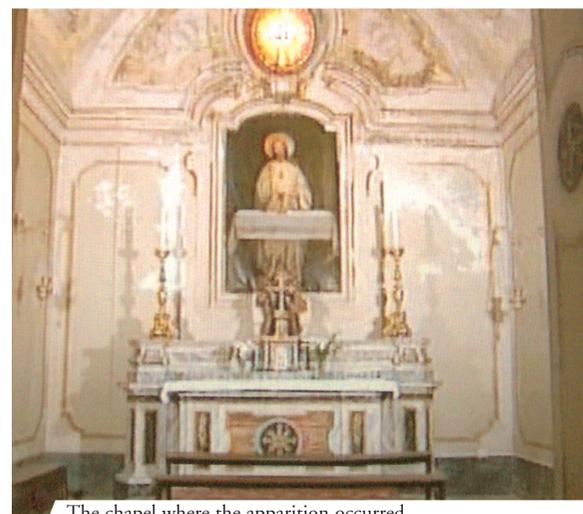
The commemorative tablet which recalls the miracle



The Church of St. Erasmus, Veroli



The chalice and the paten of the miracle



The chapel where the apparition occurred

At Easter in 1570 in the Church of St. Erasmus, the consecrated Host, according to the traditional rite at the time, was placed in a round silver container (pyx) and placed in a burse-like holder. This was later placed in a large, ceremonial silver chalice with its paten; the whole wrapped in an elegant silk cloth.

It should be mentioned that at that time exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance was not a widespread practice, even though the Council of Cologne (1452) specifically referred to the monstrance.

It was the custom for each civil confraternity to be present for an hour of adoration before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. It was at one of these hours of adoration which had the members of the

Confraternity of Mercy (which predated both the Confraternity of Corpus Christi and of our Blessed Lady) vested in their black robes and kneeling in prayer.

The most authentic document about this Eucharistic miracle was taken immediately by the chancery. This document is preserved in the archives of the Church of St. Erasmus. The detailed deposition and account of the miraculous event is given by a Giacomo Meloni who was among the first witnesses. His testimony follows: "Raising my eyes towards the chalice, I saw a most brilliant star at the base of the chalice's cup, and above the star, the Blessed Sacrament in the size of the Host used by the priest at Mass. The star was attached to the Blessed Sacrament (...). The vision ended when small children in

adoration, similar to small angels, were seen around the Sacred Host...". To this day, this miraculous event is commemorated with solemn ceremony in the presence of the bishop.

The chalice, its paten, and the silver pyx where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed, have all been preserved and they remain with the relics/reliquaries of the saints. The Sacred Species (the consecrated Bread) of the miraculous Host of Veroli was consumed after 112 years.

In 1970 on the occasion of the fourth centenary of the miracle, the Third Eucharistic Congress of the Diocese of Veroli-Frosinone was celebrated. The adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place every First Friday of the month, with all other churches being closed (...).

Eucharistic Miracle of **VOLTERRA**

ITALY, 1472



In 1472, during the war that broke between Volterra and Florence, a soldier from Florence, having entered in the Cathedral of Volterra, managed to take possession of the precious Ciborium of ivory which contained numerous consecrated Hosts. As soon as he left the Church, taken by a fit of fury against the sacramental Jesus, he threw the ciborium with its precious content against a Church wall. All the Hosts fell from it, and - illuminated by a mysterious light - elevated into the air and remained suspended for a long time. Many are the witnesses that were present at the event.



Interior of the Cathedral



View of Volterra



Among the principal causes that unchained the pointless Allumiere war, which finished with the sacking of Volterra in 1472 by the army of the Duke of Montefeltro, were above all, the contrast that existed between the different social classes and the personal interests of Lorenzo di Medici. Absorbed by the Florentine state, Volterra was subjected to harsh treatment, which caused the emigration of many wealthy families and the appropriation of their goods at bankruptcy prices.

It was in this historical scenario that in 1472 our Eucharistic miracle was verified. Among the most authoritative witnesses that describe the miracle, we have the written relation of Friar Biagio Lisci, who was a direct witness. The relation is now kept in the archives of the

Church of Saint Francis. We also have some municipal acts preserved in the municipal library of Volterra. A soldier from Florence entered the Cathedral Church and immediately went to the tabernacle, from which he took the ciborium with consecrated Hosts inside, along with many sacred objects. As soon as he left the Church, taken by a very strong hatred against Jesus in the Eucharist, the soldier flung the ciborium against one of the external walls of the Church and all the Sacred Hosts came out from it, which - as if held by an invisible hand - were elevated into the air, all radiant with light. The soldier fell to the ground out of fright, and having repented, began to cry. Many were the witnesses who were present at this marvel.



Church of Saint Francis



View of Volterra