

# Eucharistic Miracle of ALKMAAR

NETHERLANDS, 1429



In 1429, in Alkmaar's Cathedral of Saint Lawrence, a priest named Folkert was celebrating his first Mass. After the consecration, the priest accidentally knocked over the chalice, spilling consecrated wine on the altar and on his chasuble. The wine was miraculously transformed into Blood. Every attempt to remove the traces of Blood from the chasuble was in vain. The precious reliquary of the chasuble soaked in Blood is preserved even today in the Cathedral of Saint Lawrence in Alkmaar.



Church interior



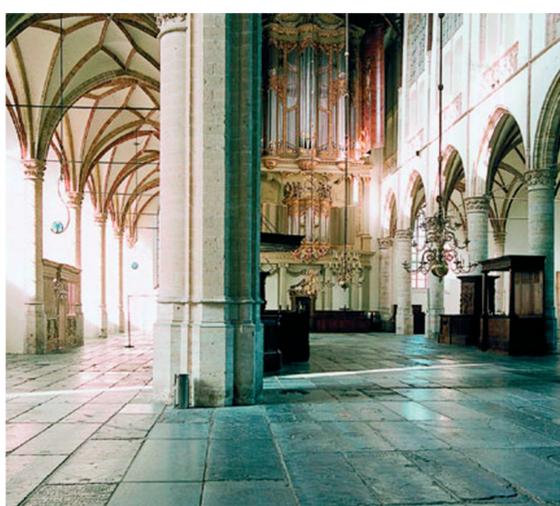
Procession in honor of the miracle



Reliquary that contains the Blood of the miracle



Painting inside the church that depicts the miracle



Church of Saint Lawrence



With kind permission of the Meertens Institute

In the Cathedral of Saint Lawrence in Alkmaar there is a precious reliquary shaped like an angel that contains the chasuble soaked in Blood from the Eucharistic miracle that happened in 1429.

*On May 1, 1429*, a priest named Folkert was celebrating his first Mass in the Cathedral of Saint Lawrence. The pastor, Father Volpert Schult, assisted. Shortly after having pronounced the words of consecration, Father Folkert inadvertently knocked over the chalice containing the consecrated wine, and in its place appeared living Blood. After Mass, in a state of panic, he cut off the part of the chasuble that was spotted with Blood and burnt it. He then took the remaining piece and began sewing it up. But as soon as he finished

mending the chasuble, the Blood spots reappeared. The two priests, not knowing what to do, immediately took the chasuble to the Bishop of Utrecht. In 1433, after numerous canonical investigations, the bishop officially approved devotion surrounding the miracle.

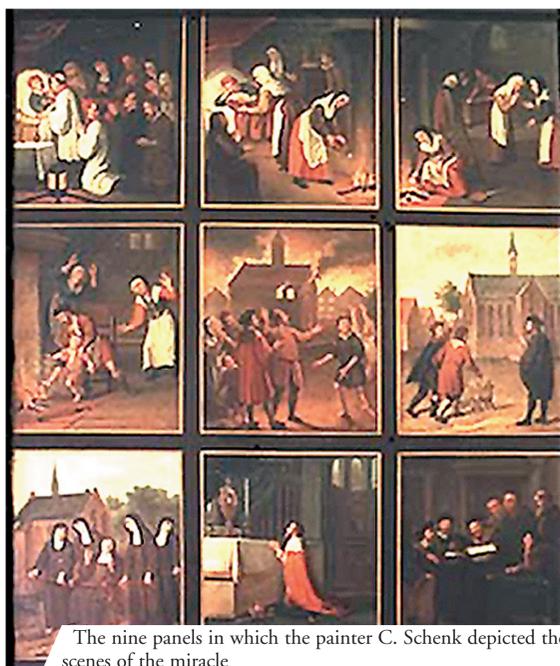


# Eucharistic Miracle of AMSTERDAM

NETHERLANDS, 1345



The Eucharistic miracle of Amsterdam regards a consecrated Host that was preserved from flames. Ysbrand Dommer was gravely sick and vomited a Communion Host he received. His maid threw the Holy Eucharist into the lit fireplace. The consecrated Host was found the next day completely intact and suspended in air in the middle of the fireplace. There were many witnesses to the miracle, and the bishop of Utrecht, Jan van Arkel, immediately authorized devotion. Even today in Amsterdam, every year there is a procession in honor of the miracle.



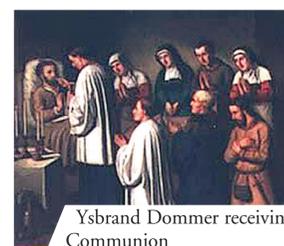
The nine panels in which the painter C. Schenk depicted the scenes of the miracle



Painting depicting the miracle



Ancient painting which depicts a solemn procession in honor of the miracle



Ysbrand Dommer receiving Communion



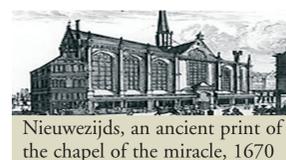
Tablet describing the miracle



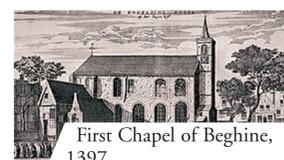
Column remaining after the church burned down



Lamp in which the Blessed Sacrament is depicted in honor of the first "Stille Omgang" procession



Nieuwezijds, an ancient print of the chapel of the miracle, 1670



First Chapel of Beghine, 1397



Case that contained the miraculous Host

On March 12, 1345, a few days before Easter, Ysbrand Dommer, thinking he was near the end of his life, sent for the parish priest of the church of Oude Kerk so he could receive the Last Rites. Shortly after receiving Holy Communion, he vomited everything into a small basin whose contents were then thrown into the flames of the fireplace. The next day Ysbrand was completely restored to health. One of the maids taking care of him approached the fireplace to poke the fire and noticed a strange light centered on the Host that was intact. The woman began to scream and everyone within earshot ran to witness the miracle. Ysbrand recovered the Host and wrapped the Holy Eucharist in a linen cloth that was placed in a case and immediately carried the Blessed Sacrament to the parish priest. But the miracle continued: three times the priest had to

return to Ysbrand's house to recover the Host that miraculously re-appeared there. It was then decided to turn Ysbrand Dommer's house into a chapel. On Easter Sunday, everyone who had witnessed the miracle, and the mayor of Amstel, compiled a report of the events. The report was delivered to the Bishop of Utrecht, Jan van Arkel, who authorized devotion to the miracle.

*In 1452 the chapel* was destroyed by a fire, but strangely the monstrance containing the miraculous Host remained intact. In 1665 the city council authorized Father Jan Van der Mey to convert one of the houses of the former convent of the Beghine into a chapel. Here the precious monstrance was transferred, but unfortunately was shortly afterwards taken by unknown thieves. Even

today there is perpetual exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in memory of the miracle. The only objects that remain from the Eucharistic miracle are the case that contained the Sacred Host, the documents that describe the miracle, and some paintings housed in the Historical Museum of Amsterdam. Every year there is a silent procession (Stille Omgang) in honor of the miracle on the eve of Palm Sunday.

# Eucharistic Miracle of AMSTERDAM

NETHERLANDS, 1345



*In 1452 the chapel was destroyed by a fire, but strangely the monstrance containing the miraculous Host remained intact.*



Façade of the current church of Beghine, Amsterdam



Sculpture of the ancient monstrance which contained the miraculous Host



Modern representation of the miracle



Pamphlet of the "Stille Omgang" procession



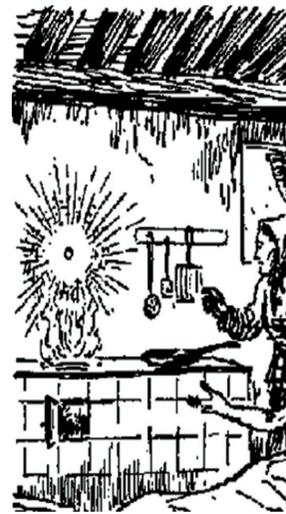
Interior of the church



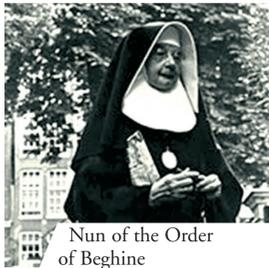
Painting depicting the miracle



The "Stille Omgang" procession held annually in memory of the miracle



Archduke Maximilian of Austria portrayed in adoration before the reliquary of the miraculous Host (1484)



Nun of the Order of Beghine



The chapel of the church was destroyed again in 1908



Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament



# *Eucharistic Miracle of* **BERGEN**

NETHERLANDS, 1421



The city of Bergen is famous not only for its characteristic canals but also for a Eucharistic miracle that took place there in 1421. For many months, the pastor of the Church of Saints Peter and Paul had experienced doubt about whether the Body and the Blood of Christ was truly present in the consecrated Host. The priest showed no devotion towards the Blessed Sacrament, so much so that one day after celebrating Mass he took the remaining consecrated Hosts and threw them in the river. Some months later the Hosts were found again, floating in the water and stained with Blood.



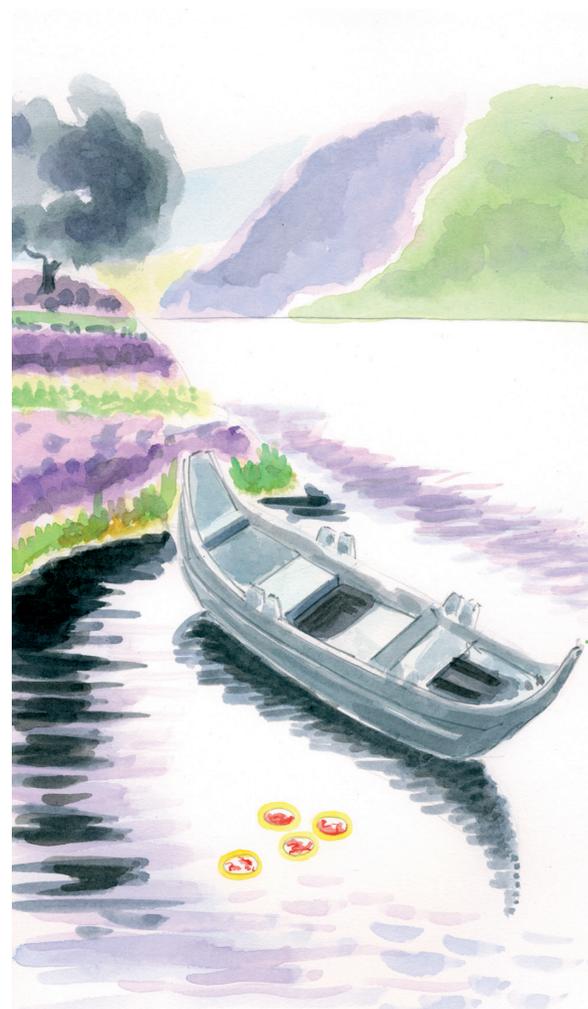
Jules Breton, *Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, 1857*



View of the Schelda River



The church of Saints Peter and Paul and the River Schelda



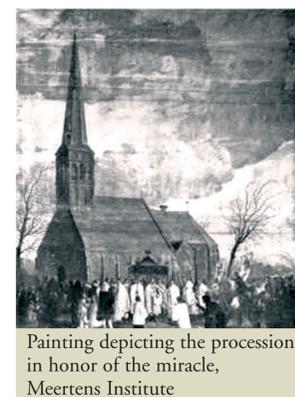
**B**ergen op Zoom (City on the Border), is located along the estuary of the Schelda River and has many canals running across it. In 1421, on the Sunday before the Feast of Pentecost, the pastor of the Church of Saints Peter and Paul, not believing the truth of the transubstantiation, threw consecrated Hosts left over from Mass into the canal.

*Several months later,* some fisherman found the Hosts floating in the water and soaked in coagulated Blood. News of the miraculous recovery of the Hosts spread quickly, and immediately many pilgrims came to see. Devotion was approved by the bishop and, though it was banned for a long period during the Protestant

Reformation, Catholics silently continued to keep alive the memory of the miracle. Devotion was restored in the twentieth century and there are numerous public events to commemorate the miracle.



A model of the city of Bergen at the time of the miracle



Painting depicting the procession in honor of the miracle, Meertens Institute

# Eucharistic Miracle of BOXMEER

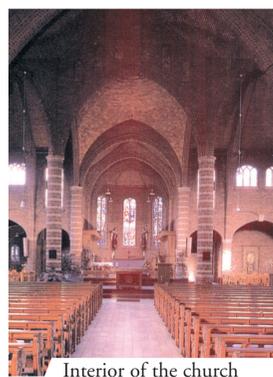
NETHERLANDS, 1400



During a Mass in Boxmeer, in Holland, in the year 1400, the species of wine was transformed into Blood and bubbled out of the chalice, splashing onto the corporal. The priest, terrorized at the sight, asked God to forgive his doubts, and the Blood immediately stopped bubbling out of the chalice. The Blood that had fallen on the corporal coagulated into a lump the size of a walnut. Even today one can see the Blood, which has not changed at all over time.



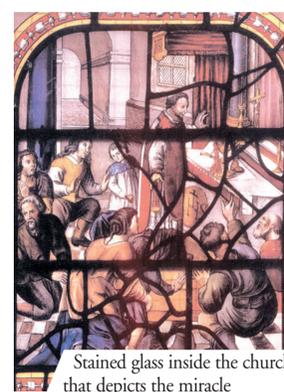
Church of Saints Peter and Paul at Boxmeer



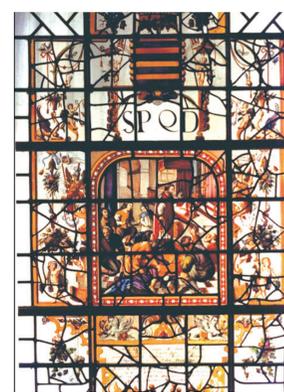
Interior of the church



Reliquary of the Blood



Stained glass inside the church that depicts the miracle



H. BLOED BOXMEER



Dirk P. Schuth, Boxmeer.

The Eucharistic miracle of Boxmeer took place in the church of Saints Peter and Paul in 1400. Father Arnoldus Groen was celebrating Mass and immediately after having consecrated the Eucharistic species, doubted the Real Presence of the Lord in the consecrated bread and the wine. Without warning, the consecrated wine, as though the Precious Blood were boiling, began bubbling out of the chalice and onto the corporal.

*The wine was changed into* Blood and coagulated in a great lump. The relics of the corporal and the Precious Blood are preserved to this day and the anniversary of the miracle is celebrated with an annual solemn procession. There are many documents that describe the miracle, as well as stone

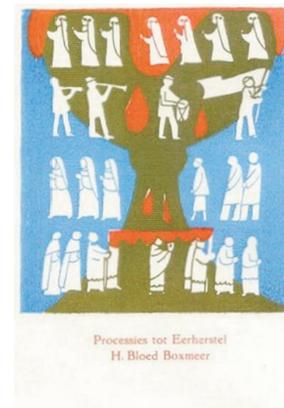
tablets and paintings. Popes Clement XI, Benedict XIV, Pius IX and Leo XIII all showed a particular devotion to the miracle.



Procession in honor of the miracle



Boxmeer, t jaar O.B. 1400.



Processies tot Eerherstel H. Bloed Boxmeer

# Eucharistic Miracle of BOXTEL-HOOGSTRATEN



NETHERLANDS, 1380

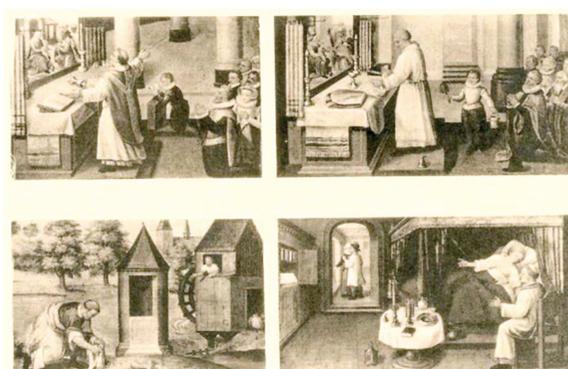
Boxtel is particularly famous for a Eucharistic miracle that occurred around 1380. A priest named Eligius van der Aker was celebrating Mass at the altar of the Three Kings. Immediately after the consecration he inadvertently knocked over the chalice containing consecrated white wine, which immediately changed into Blood and stained the corporal and the altar cloth. The relic of the Blood-stained corporal is still kept in Boxtel, while the altar cloth was given to the town of Hoogstraten. The most authoritative document describing the miracle is a decree issued in 1380 by Cardinal Pileus.



Exterior of St. Catherine's Church, Hoogstraten



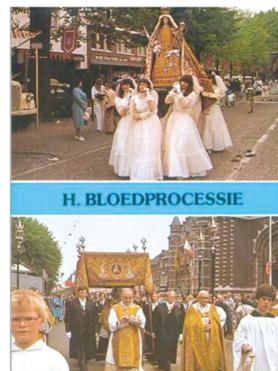
Relic of the miraculous Blood, St. Catherine's Church



Ancient depictions of the miracle



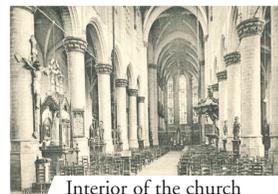
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H. BLOEDPROCESSIE



The Eucharistic miracle took place at St. Peter's Church in Boxtel



Interior of the church



Relic of the Blood-stained corporal



An ancient painting in the church depicting the miracle



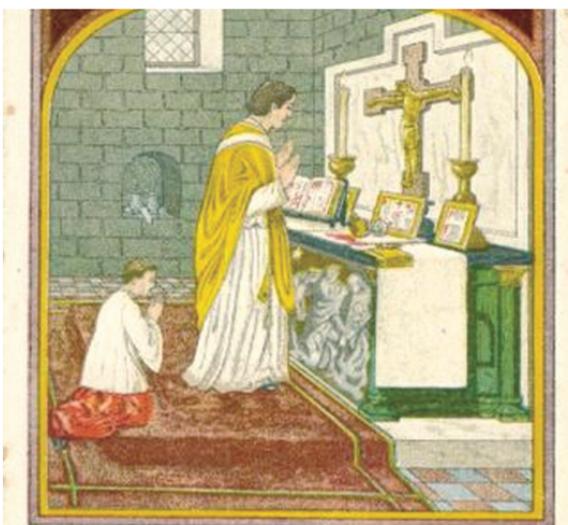
The relic being carried in procession



In 1380, the priest Eligius van der Aker celebrated Mass at St. Peter's Church. Shortly after consecrating the species of wine, he inadvertently spilled the Precious Blood on the corporal and the altar cloth. Although he had used white wine for the Mass, it turned into Blood.

*At the end of Mass* the priest ran into the sacristy and tried to remove the Blood stains from the sacred linens, but all his attempts were in vain. Not knowing what to do, he hid the altar cloth and corporal in a travel case under his bed. Only when he was dying did he reveal the secret to his confessor, Fr. Henrijk van Meerheim. He immediately informed Cardinal Pileus, who at the time was the apostolic legate of Pope Urban VI and titular of the Church of

St. Praxedes. After conducting a thorough investigation into what had happened, the Cardinal authorized the veneration of the relics by a decree of June 25, 1380. Due to religious conflicts, the relics were moved in 1652 to Hoogstraten on the Belgian border. Only in 1924, after repeated requests, was the Blood-stained corporal returned to the little town of Boxtel. Every year on the feast of the Holy Trinity, the townspeople of Boxtel organize a solemn procession commemorating the Eucharistic miracle and expose the relic for public veneration.



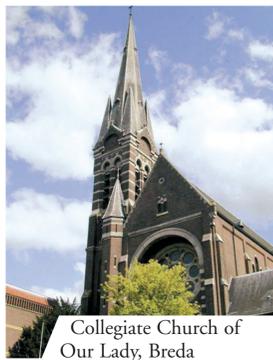
The Eucharistic miracle took place at St. Peter's Church in Boxtel

# Eucharistic Miracle of BRED-NIERVAART

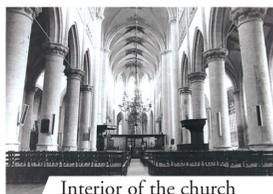
NETHERLANDS, 1300



The Eucharistic miracle of Breda-Niervaart occurred on June 24, 1300. At the time, the Netherlands was occupied by Spanish army troops, and during a pillage a soldier stole a consecrated Host, which was found a short while later by a farmer named Jan Bautoen. The Sacred Host was hidden under a lump of dirt and was in perfect condition. One of the most authoritative and complete documents describing the events connected with this miracle is the investigation conducted by the Bishop of Link. Traces of the miracle remain in the church's paintings as well as in the documents.



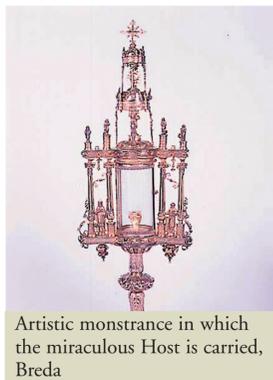
Collegiate Church of Our Lady, Breda



Interior of the church



The procession held every year to honor the miracle



Artistic monstrance in which the miraculous Host is carried, Breda



Banner depicting the finding of the miraculous Host



With the kind permission of the Meertens Institute

**O**n June 24, 1300, a farmer named Jan Bautoen was hoeing a plot of land near the village of Niervaart. As he lifted a clod of earth, he found a completely intact Host, which he immediately gave to the pastor of the village of Niervaart. The Host was placed in a precious container, and despite the passage of time, one could see that the species of the bread remained intact. News quickly spread among the people, who began to venerate the Sacred Host. In 1449 the Holy Eucharist was moved to the Collegiate Church of Our Lady of Breda, and an artistic monstrance was made in which to preserve the Blessed Sacrament.

*During the religious conflicts,* all traces of the miraculous Host were lost, even though devotion to this Eucharistic miracle was

kept alive by the people. After various ups and downs, veneration was solemnly restored in the 20th century by a confraternity in Breda dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament. To this day, processions and public prayers are held each year in honor of the miracle.



The relic of the miraculous Host is carried in procession (1535), Sacred Museum of Breda

# Eucharistic Miracle of MEERSSEN

NETHERLANDS, 1222-1465



In 1222 and 1465, two important Eucharistic miracles took place in the town of Meerssen. The first occurred during Holy Mass, when living Blood dripped from the large Host and stained the corporal. The second occurred in 1465, when a farmer was able to rescue the relic of the miracle from a fire that had destroyed the whole church. The church was later rebuilt, and in 1938 Pope Pius XI raised it to a minor basilica. Numerous pilgrims come every year to Meerssen to venerate the relic of the miracle.



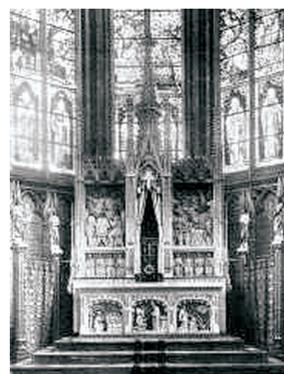
Panoramic view of the basilica



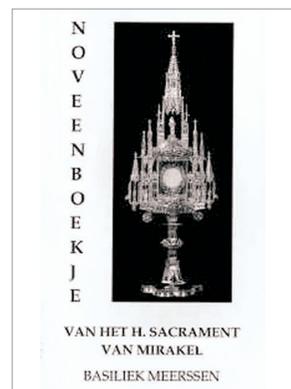
Basilica of the Blessed Sacrament, Meerssen



Interior of the basilica



Altar of the miracle



Ancient painting in the basilica depicting the miracle



Medals commemorating the miracle

With the help of Gerberga of Saxony, wife of the French King Louis IV of Outremer, the ancient chapel was enlarged in the mid tenth century and became an important church. In 1222 an important Eucharistic miracle occurred in this church and was recognized by the ecclesiastical authorities. During the celebration of Sunday Mass, the priest consecrated the Eucharistic species, and living Blood started to drip from the large Host, staining the Mass corporal.

*In 1465 a huge fire* broke out and destroyed the church, but a farmer managed to rescue the relic of the Blood-stained Host, which remained completely unharmed. The townspeople remember this episode as the “Miracle of the Fire.” Despite the fire, the church was immediately

rebuilt, and in 1938 Pius XI raised it to a minor basilica. Today it is still a major pilgrimage center in the Netherlands, and the precious relic of the miracle is carried in procession each year on the octave of Corpus Christi.



# Eucharistic Miracle of STIPHOUT

NETHERLANDS, 1342



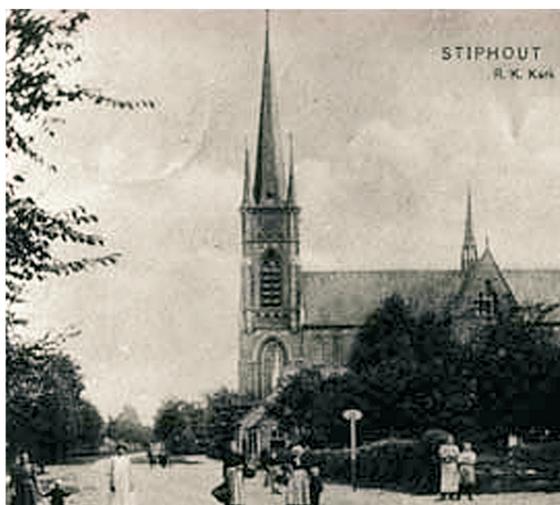
In the Eucharistic miracle of Stiphout, consecrated Hosts were preserved from a raging fire that destroyed the whole church, which was later rebuilt. In addition to the many documents describing the miracle, one can admire a painting depicting the miraculous episode in the parish church where it occurred. This event is celebrated each year by the residents of Stiphout especially on the feast of Corpus Christi.



Interior of Saint Trudo's Church



Picture showing the miracle. At the bottom Jan Bolloys is seen rescuing the Blessed Sacrament



Saint Trudo's Church, Stiphout



In 1342 a violent thunderstorm suddenly broke out in the village of Stiphout. A lightning bolt struck the parish, setting it on fire. The flames quickly spread everywhere and reached the interior of the church. Not knowing what to do, the elderly pastor, Jan Hocaerts, immediately ran to warn the neighbors. A group of the faithful led by Jan Baloys, decided to try to rescue the Blessed Sacrament.

*It was impossible* to enter the church and the only solution left was for someone to be lowered down through the window. Jan Baloys volunteered. After breaking the glass of the large window near the altar with a bar, he let himself down inside. With great amazement, he saw that the flames which had already destroyed the whole church were being kept away from the area

around the tabernacle. Jan then opened the tabernacle, grabbed the ciborium containing the consecrated Hosts, and carried them to safety. Everyone immediately shouted, "Miracle!". The church was later rebuilt and the Hosts remained intact until 1557. Because of historical vicissitudes and religious wars, every trace of them was subsequently lost.

