

ITALY, 1570

Eucharistic Miracle of Veroli



On Easter of 1570, at the church of St. Erasmus, the consecrated Host, in accord with the traditional rite, was enclosed in a silver case of cylindrical shape with a cover attached by hinges, which was then placed inside a large chalice used for Mass, also made of silver, and then covered with a paten. All of this was then wrapped in an elegant silk cloth. It should be pointed out that the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance was seldom practiced, even though mention had already been made of the monstrance at the Council of Cologne in 1452. There was a custom for each of the city's confraternities to spend an hour of adoration before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. And so it happened that those enlisted in the Confraternity of Mercy, who preceded those from the Confraternity of Corpus Christi and those of the Blessed Virgin Mary, dressed in their black outfits, all

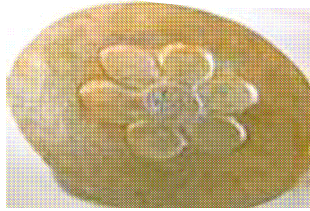
knelt down to pray. The most authoritative document concerning the Eucharistic Miracle which then took place was compiled immediately after the events by the local Curia and preserved in the archives of the church of St. Erasmus. The deposition of a certain Giacomo Meloni, who was among the first witnesses present at the Miracle, contains a very detailed description: "And so, as I raised my eyes toward the chalice, I saw from the cup of the chalice a brilliant star, and above the star the Blessed Sacrament appeared [...]. The miracle reached its high point when around the consecrated Host there appeared some infants, bowed in adoration like little angels..." The Miracle is still commemorated today with a solemn ceremony in which the Bishop also participates each year on Tuesday within the Octave of Easter. The chalice with the paten where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed has been preserved without interruption among the reliquaries of the saints, along with the silver case. The sacred species of the miraculous Host of Veroli, after about 112 years, were consumed. Every First Friday of the month, in the church of the Eucharistic Miracle, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held, and all the other churches are closed at that time.



(1)



(2)



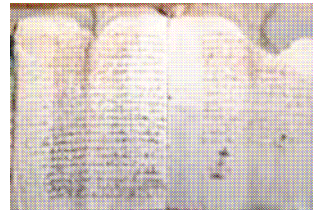
(3)



(4)



(5)



- (1) Church of St. Erasmus, Veroli
- (2) Chalice and Paten of the Miracle
- (3) Chapel where the miraculous apparition took place
- (4) An early painting depicting the Miracle
- (5) Document reporting the testimonies written under oath by each person present at the apparition