

HOLLAND, 1380

Eucharistic Miracle of Boxtel-Hoogstraten



In 1380, a priest named Father Eligio van der Aker was celebrating Holy Mass at the Church of St. Peter, when just after consecrating the species of wine, he accidentally spilled it on the corporal and on the altar cloth. Despite the fact that he used white wine for the Mass, it was transformed into red Blood. At the end of the Mass, the priest ran into the sacristy and tried to remove the Blood stains from the sacred linens, but every attempt proved fruitless. Not knowing what to do, he hid the altar cloth and the corporal in a trunk under his bed. Only as his death was approaching did he finally reveal the secret to his confessor, Father Henry van Meerheim, who in turn immediately informed Cardinal Pileus, who at that time was the apostolic delegate of Pope Urban VI and Titular Archbishop of the Church of St. Praxedes. The Cardinal, after

conducting a thorough examination of how the events had unfolded, officially authorized the veneration of the Relics from the miracle by the Decree of June 25, 1380. In 1652, because of inter-denominational conflicts, the Relics were transferred to Hoogstraten, at the border with Belgium. Only in 1924, after persistent appeals, was the corporal stained with the Lord's Blood returned to the small town of Boxtel. Each year, the citizens of Boxtel, on the occasion of the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, organize a solemn procession in commemoration of the Eucharistic Miracle, and expose the Relic for public veneration.

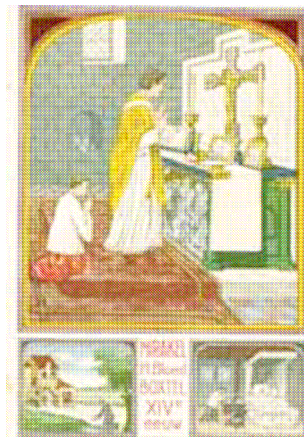
(1)



(2)



(3)



(1) The Miracle took place at the Church of St. Peter in Bortel

(2) Relic of the Blood of the Miracle, Church of St. Catherine

(3) The Relic being carried in procession