

Eucharistic Miracle of

SCETE

EGYPT, THIRD - FIFTH CENTURIES



The account of this Eucharistic miracle goes back to the first centuries of Christianity and is found in the apothegm of the Fathers of the Desert who lived in the desert after the example of St. Anthony, Abbot. A monk had doubts regarding the Real Presence of Jesus in the consecrated bread and wine consecrated at Mass. After the consecration the Infant Jesus was seen in place of the bread. Three companion monks witnessed the same appearance.



Christ embraces the Abbot Mena (6th century)



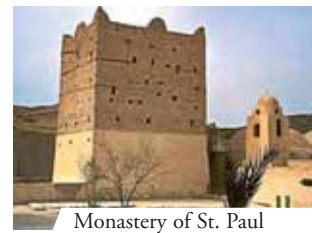
St. Moses, Monk of the Desert



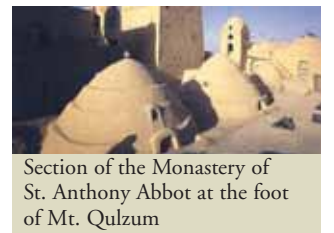
Christ enthroned with the Virgin and surrounded by Saints in the Monastery of Apollo at Bawit



Section of the painting of Blessed Fra Angelico: St. Anthony Abbot in the desert



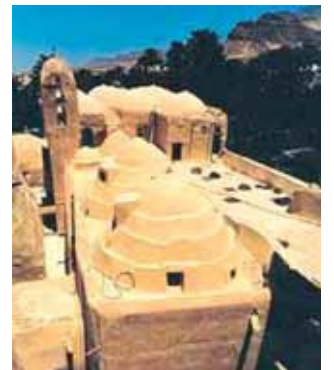
Monastery of St. Paul



Section of the Monastery of St. Anthony Abbot at the foot of Mt. Qulzum



Ancient Coptic Monastery dedicated to St. Paul on the coast of the Red Sea



Monastery of St. Anthony Abbot in Egypt

In the sayings and deeds of the Fathers of the Desert, we find the description of an ancient Eucharistic miracle. Fr. Daniel the Faranite attests: "Our Fr. Arsenius told us of a monk of the Scete who was a hard worker but lacked instruction in the Faith. In his ignorance he would say: 'The bread we receive is not really the Body of Christ, but it is a symbol of that Body.' Two of the veteran monks heard his statement and aware that he was a good pious monk decided to speak to him since they attributed his words to his ignorance and not to malice. So they informed him: 'What you are saying contradicts our Faith.' The accused replied: 'Unless you can show me evidence, I will not change my mind.' The older monks told him: 'We will pray to God about this mystery and we believe God will show us the truth.'

A week later on Sunday all went to the church. At the consecration, in place of the bread a young boy was seen. When the priest raised the bread an angel appeared with a sword and pierced the boy and when the priest broke the bread, blood ran into the chalice. At the Communion, the angel took bloodied particles from the boy and brought them to the monks to receive. At this the doubter cried out 'Lord, I believe that the bread is your body and your blood is in the chalice.' Immediately the bloodied flesh he had in his hand became bread and he communicated reverently."