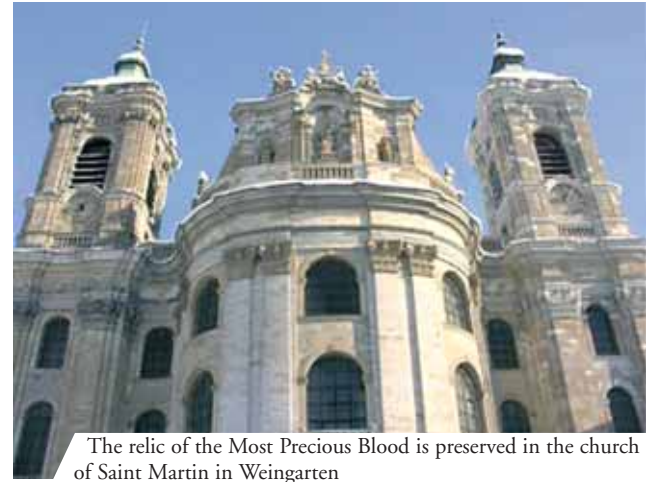




For more than 900 years it has been possible to venerate the relic of a portion of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus at the Benedictine Monastery at Weingarten. According to many historians, the soldier Longinus had carried the relic of the Most Precious Blood of Christ to Mantua. Later the Precious Blood was divided into several portions and given to various rulers of the era, the most famous of whom was Charlemagne, and to different popes.



Urn containing the sacred relic



The relic of the Most Precious Blood is preserved in the church of Saint Martin in Weingarten



Antique painting depicting *The Ride (or Procession) of the Most Precious Blood* held in Weingarten



Relic of the Most Precious Blood



Procession in honor of the precious relic



The relic of the Most Precious Blood arrived even in Weingarten. According to an ancient document, in the year 1055, Emperor Henry III of the Franks was given part of the Precious Relic. Henry subsequently left the Most Precious Blood as an inheritance to Count Baldovino of Flanders, who in turn gave the Sacred Relic to his daughter, Judith.

*When Guelfo IV of Bavaria* sought Judith as his spouse, she gave him the Precious Relic, which he himself later gave to the Benedictines at Weingarten, directed at that time by Abbot Wilichon. The solemn ceremony took place March 4, 1094. For this reason the Benedictine Abbey received numerous indulgences from various popes, such that this church became a religious center of extraordinary importance.

Every year a ceremony known as The Ride (or Procession) of the Blood, in honor of the relic, was organized at Weingarten. It was a parade in which nearly 3,000 horses, ridden by representatives of the individual parishes and by the clergy of the individual churches, participated.



Pope Pius II venerates the precious relic



Relic of a Nail from the Cross, Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna



Relic of a fragment from the Holy Cross which is preserved in Rome in the Basilica of The Holy Cross in Jerusalem