

Italy 1535 – 1718

Eucharistic Miracles of Asti

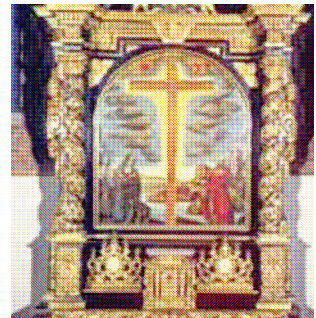
The first Miracle at Asti occurred on **July 25, 1535**. When a devout priest, Father Domenico Occelli, around 7 o'clock in the morning, began to celebrate Holy Mass at the main altar of the collegiate church of San Secondo, when he came to the breaking of the Host (before Holy Communion), he saw it turn red with living Blood along the entire length of the crack. At first, Fr. Domenico continued the celebration of the Mass. When he detached the part of the Host to be placed in the chalice, he saw Blood come out of this as well. Amazed, he invited the faithful attending the Mass to approach the altar to see the Miracle. When the priest took the Host to consume it, the Blood had disappeared, and the Host had suddenly regained its original whiteness. This was the series of events which unfolded according to the translation of the official account sent by the Bishop of Asti, Monsignor Scipione Roero, to the Holy See and reproduced in the Papal Brief of November 6, 1535, in which Pope Paul III granted a plenary indulgence to all who “on the anniversary of the Miracle visit the Church of San Secondo and recite three Our Fathers and Hail Marys for the intention of the Holy Father.”



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- (1) Collegiate Church of San Secondo, Asti
- (2) Oil painting on canvas (painter unknown, 17th century) depicting the Eucharistic Miracle which took place in the Collegiate Church of San Secondo in 1535. The painting is preserved in the Chapel of the Miracle.
- (3) Altar of the Crucifixion, also called the Altar of the Miracle at the Collegiate Church of San Secondo, built by G. Badarello (end of the 17th century)

On the morning of **May 10, 1718**, a priest named Father Francesco Scotto made his way to the Milliavacca Institute for Charitable Works in order to celebrate Mass. It was around 8:00 AM. The church of the institute was divided into two parts: the front part, where visitors could come in, and the back part, behind the altar, which was reserved for the residents. In the front part, that is in front of the altar, was only the notary, Scipione Alessandro Ambrogio, who was the Bishop's chancellor and the treasurer of the Institute. In the back part of the church behind the altar were the residents. When the priest came to the elevation of the Host, Ambrogio noticed that the Host was broken into two parts. Just after the priest lifted the chalice, thinking that a broken Host could not be validly consecrated, came up to the altar to inform the priest, Ambrogio ran immediately into the sacristy to bring another host. In the meantime, Father Francesco, the celebrant, lifted the Host up with his fingers and found it actually divided precisely in half, and to his infinite astonishment, saw the longitudinal edge of the two parts appear red with blood, and moreover, the base of the chalice and the cup were stained with



blood, with some small drops of blood on the corporal itself. Ambrogio, meanwhile, had arrived with the new host, and observed that the consecrated Host was bleeding. He at once began to weep, and ran immediately to call the canon Argenta, confessor for the institute, Vaglio, a theologian, and Ferrero, the penitentiary, all of whom were also direct witnesses of the Miracle. At the same time, the other priests as well as three doctors from the city arrived on the scene, all of whom confirmed that the red spots were truly blood. Among those present, one was afflicted with doubt, thinking that perhaps the blood had dripped from the nose or the mouth of the priest, but some surgeons who were present, after close observation, eliminated all doubt on this issue. Afterwards, the deputy vicar along with the secretary of the curia and the vicar of the Inquisition, R. Bordino, drafted an official account of the Miracle. Another important proof of the authenticity of the Miracle comes to us from a document reporting how Monsignor Filippo



Artico, Bishop of Asti, had the chalice and Host of the Miracle examined by several experts in physiology, who confirmed the hematic (blood) origin of the red stains. The Milliavacca Institute for Charitable Works has jealously preserved the relics of the Miracle: the chalice with the blood stains, the Host from the Miracle, though corrupted and reduced to a white film, the paten, the corporal, and the cup of gold-plated silver.



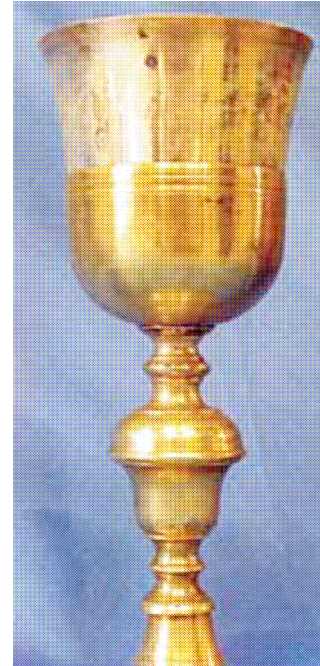
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- (4) Cathedral of Asti
- (5) The Chalice of the Miracle is preserved in the interior of the Cathedral of Asti, in the Chapel dedicated to St. Phillip Neri.
- (6) Detail of the base of the chalice of the Miracle at the Milliavacca Institute for Charitable Works.
- (7) *Milliavacca Institute for Charitable Works*, Chalice of the Miracle of 1718. Noteworthy is the correspondence of the drops of the Blood on the cup and those at the base of the chalice