

**ITALY, 1560**

## **Eucharistic Miracle of Morrovalle**



At Morrovalle, on the night of April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 1560, during the Octave of Easter, at around 2 o'clock in the morning, a lay brother named Angelo Blasi was awakened suddenly by a violent crackling sound. Looking out from the window of his cell, he saw that the church was completely engulfed in flames and ran at once to inform the other friars. The fire was put out after 7 hours and only on the following days did the work of clearing away the immense pile of debris begin. This in itself was no cause for wonder, but on April 27, when one of the priests, Father Battista da Ascoli, was removing a piece of marble from what had been the main altar, he caught sight of the

ciborium in the hole of the wall, with the corporal slightly burned, on which was preserved the big consecrated Host, still intact and in one piece. Father Battista cried out at the sight of the Miracle, and many people ran at once to the place where it took place. For three entire days, the Blessed Sacrament remained exposed for adoration by the faithful. When the Provincial Superior, Father Evangelista of Morrò d'Alba, arrived at last, the miraculous Host was placed in a small case of ivory. The Bishop of Bertinoro at that time, Monsignor Ludovico di Forlì, was immediately sent by Pope Pius IV to Morrovalle to investigate the authenticity of what happened. Just after receiving the Bishop's report, Pope Pius IV judged the occurrence to be beyond every natural cause and so authorized the devotion surrounding it with the publishing of the Bull *Sacrosancta Romana Ecclesia* (1560).



In accord with the provisions contained in the Papal Bull, the days marking the anniversary of the fire and of the recovery of the miraculous Host (April 17 and 27 respectively) became feast days and were called the feast of “the two *Perdoni* (indulgences).” The Church was then expanded because of the multitude of the faithful which attended the celebrations. Presently, the recurrence of the two dates each year is commemorated with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and of the reliquary on the main altar, and the “Perdoni,” that is, the two plenary indulgences, may be obtained at the church of St. Bartholomew. The miraculous Host was preserved intact until 1600, but because of historical circumstances, every trace of the miraculous Host was lost after this date. Today, only the reliquary and the cover of the ciborium which survived the fire still remain

(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



- (1) Monastery with annex at the Church of St. Frances, where the Miracle took place
- (2) Relics of the Miracle
- (3) Church of St. Bartholomew
- (4) Morrovalle, procession in honor of the miracle