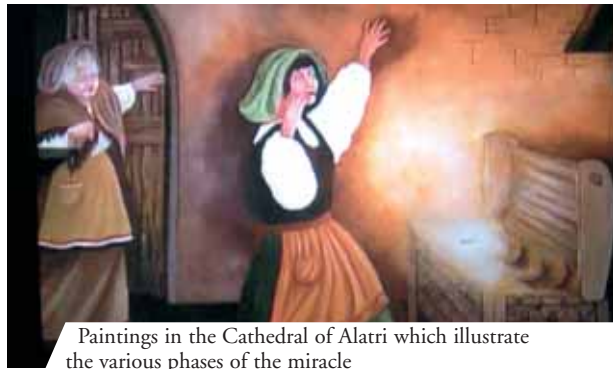


Eucharistic Miracle of ALATRI

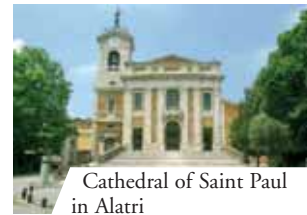
ITALY, 1228



In Alatri's Cathedral of Saint Paul the Apostle, there is kept even today the reliquary of the Eucharistic miracle that occurred in 1228 and consisted in a fragment of the Host turning into flesh. A young woman, in an effort to regain the love of her sweetheart, consulted a sorceress who ordered her to steal a consecrated Host to make a love potion. During Mass, the young woman hid a Host in a cloth. But when she got home, she realized that the Host had been transformed into bleeding flesh. This miracle has extensive documentation, including from Pope Gregory IX.



Paintings in the Cathedral of Alatri which illustrate the various phases of the miracle



Cathedral of Saint Paul in Alatri



The chapel where the Incarnate Host is exposed



Chapel inside the cathedral where the reliquary of the miracle is kept



Bull *Fraternitas Tuae* of Pope Gregory IX



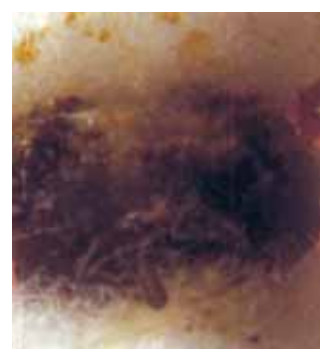
Monstrance where the reliquary of the miracle is kept



The 750th anniversary of the miracle was solemnly celebrated in 1978. For the occasion, a medal was coined which on the front shows an image of Pope Gregory IX with the Papal Bull and on the back, the façade of the cathedral with the Host above



Letter of the rector of Saint Mary alle Terme, dated March 22, 1888, in which he gives thanks for the gift of part of the reliquary of the Incarnate Host conserved in Alatri



Detail of the reliquary

The most authoritative testimony regarding this miracle is found in the Bull *Fraternitas tuae* (March 13, 1228) written by Pope Gregory IX in response to Bishop Giovanni V of Alatri. The text reads: "Gregory, Bishop and Servant of the Servants of God, to Venerable Brother Bishop of Alatri, greetings and Apostolic blessing. We have received your letter, dearest brother, in which you informed us of a certain young woman misguided by an evil woman, who, after having received from the priest the Most Holy Body of Christ, held the Sacred Host in her mouth until the right moment to conceal the Holy Eucharist in a cloth. After three days, she discovered the same Body which she had received in the form of bread transformed into flesh, as everyone has been able to verify with their own eyes. Because both women have humbly

revealed this to you, you desire our opinion regarding the punishment that should be imposed upon them. First, we give thanks with all our strength to Him Who, though He always operates in marvelous ways, in this case repeats miracles and produces new wonders so that He calls to sinners, converts evildoers and confounds heretics while strengthening faith in the truth of the Catholic Church, sustaining hope and re-igniting charity.

Thus, dearest brother, by means of this apostolic letter, we dispose that you inflict a milder punishment on the young woman, whom we hold to have done this more from weakness than malice, especially because it can be believed that she has sufficiently repented in confessing her sin. To the instigator,

who with her perversion pushed the young woman to commit sacrilege, apply those disciplinary measures that we believe opportune to leave to your judgment. She should also visit the nearest bishop so that she can humbly confess her crime, imploring pardon with devout submission." The Pope interpreted this episode as a sign against the widespread heresies regarding the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and pardoned the two repentant women. A commemorative medal was coined on the 750th anniversary of the miracle; one side showed the cathedral façade and the reliquary, while the other a bust of Pope Gregory IX with the Papal Bull.