

Eucharistic Miracle of FLORENCE

ITALY, 1230-1595



The reliquaries of two Eucharistic miracles which took place in 1230 and 1595 are held in Florence's Church of Saint Ambrose. In the miracle of 1230, a distracted priest left several drops of consecrated wine in the chalice after Mass. The next day, returning to celebrate Mass in the same church, he found in the chalice drops of living Blood coagulated and incarnated. The Blood was immediately placed in a crystal cruet. The other Eucharistic miracle took place on Good Friday in 1595, when several fragments of the Host were miraculously unharmed in a church fire.



Basilica of Saint Ambrose, Florence



Interior of the Basilica of Saint Ambrose



Precious tabernacle, done by Mino da Fiesole, where the reliquaries of the two miracles are kept



Details of the tabernacle where the reliquaries of the two Eucharistic miracles are stored



Fresco in the basilica depicting the first miracle that took place in 1230, showing the priest Ugucione carrying the Blood in procession



Chiesa di S. Ambrogio
di Lamezia
verso il Congresso Eucaristico
e
il Giubileo del 2000
24 Maggio 1997
"CORPUS DOMINI"
Miracolo Eucaristico - 1230



Reliquary of the drops of wine transformed into living Blood



Reliquary of the Hosts that survived the fire

The first miracle took place on December 30, 1230. A priest named Ugucione, having finished celebrating Mass, did not realize that several drops of consecrated wine remained in the chalice and had turned into blood. The historian, Giovanni Villani, gives a precise description: "A day later, taking up the chalice, he found living blood coagulated [...] and this was shown to all the women of the monastery and to all the locals who were present, to the bishop, and to all the clergy. And then the Precious Blood was revealed to all the Florentines, who gathered with great devotion to see. He took the Precious Blood from the chalice and put the Sacred Species in a crystal cruet and again showed the people, with great reverence." Bishop Ardingo of Pavia ordered that the reliquary be brought to him. He kept the Precious Blood for several weeks before returning

the miraculous Blood to the sisters of the monastery for safe-keeping near the Church of Saint Ambrose. Pope Boniface IX, in 1399, granted the same indulgence as the Portiuncula to those faithful who visited the Church of Saint Ambrose, and contributed to adorning the reliquary of the miracle. The 750th anniversary of the miracle was celebrated in 1980. The relic of the coagulated Blood (several drops of Blood that measure about a square centimeter) is conserved in a reliquary which has been placed inside a white marble tabernacle constructed by Mino da Fiesole.

On Good Friday in 1595, a lit candle on the altar of a side chapel called the Sepulchre, fell to the ground and started a fire. The people immediately rushed to put out

the fire and succeeded in saving the Blessed Sacrament and chalice. In the great commotion, six fragments of consecrated Hosts fell from the pyx onto the smoldering carpet, but despite the fire these were found intact and joined together. In 1628, Archbishop Marzio Medici of Florence examined the fragments of the Hosts, which he found to be incorrupt. He had the Sacred Species placed in a precious reliquary. Every May during the Forty Hours devotion, the two reliquaries are exposed together in a reliquary that also contains a consecrated Host for public adoration.