

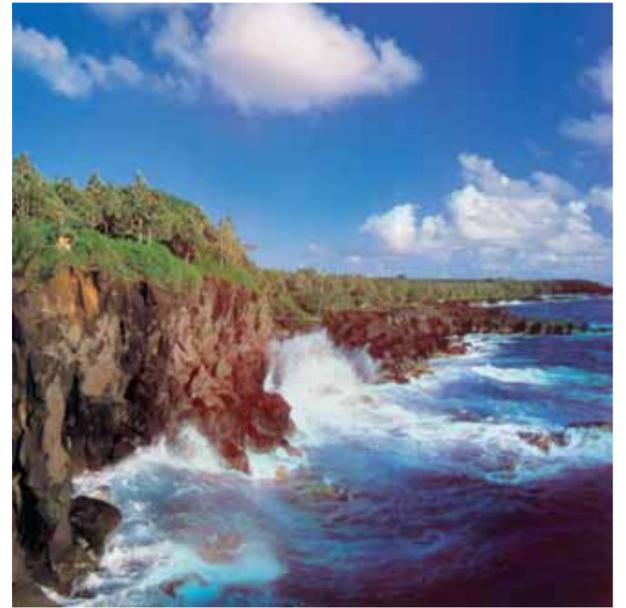
Eucharistic Miracle of

SAINT-ANDRÉ DE LA RÉUNION

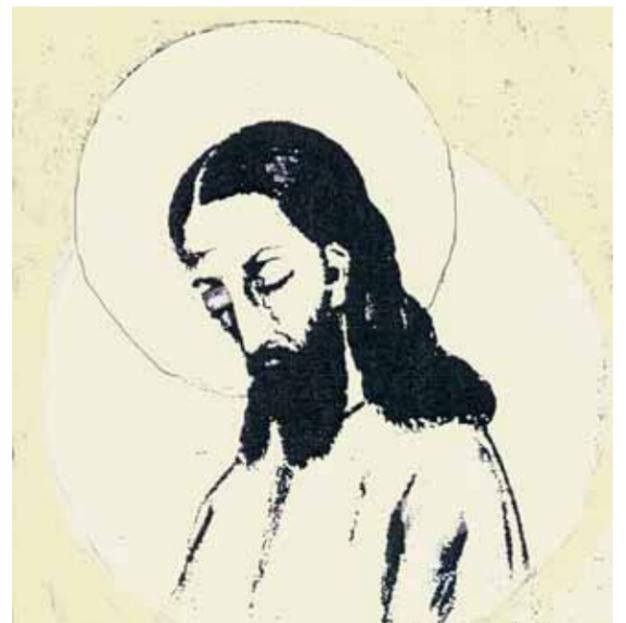
ISLAND OF LA RÉUNION, 1902



On January 26, 1902, at the parish church of Saint-André, a city on the island of La Réunion (French colony), Abbot Henry Lacombe, pastor of the church, was witness to the miracle that he would recount to thousands of people during the Eucharistic Congress of Angouleme (1904), as well as to the group of priests gathered for a spiritual retreat in the town of Perigueux. The face of Jesus appeared in the Host which was for many hours witnessed by thousands of people.



Réunion Island



Ancient print representing the Prodigy



Let's look at Abbot Lacombe's report: "It was January 26, 1902. We were celebrating perpetual adoration (the Forty hours devotion). The Most Holy Sacrament was exposed in the tabernacle. I began to celebrate the Mass. After the elevation, at the moment of the Our Father, my eyes were lifted toward the Host and I saw a bright halo around the rays of the monstrance. I continued to recite the prayers of the Mass with great agitation in my soul but which I tried to overcome. We came to the moment for Communion and again I looked toward the monstrance. This time I saw a human face, with lowered eyes and a crown of thorns on the forehead. What moved me the most was the dolorous expression painted on the face. The eyelashes were long and thick. I tried not to let on to the presence of the turmoil agitating inside of me.

After Mass, I went to the sacristy and summoned the older children from the choir to go to the altar and closely observe the monstrance.

"The children raced back and told me: 'Father, we see the head of a man in the Host. It is the good Lord revealing Himself?' I understood then that the vision was authentic. A young man of 16, Adam de Villiers, who had studied in a college in France, also arrived. I said to him as well: 'Go in the church and see if you notice something strange in the tabernacle'. The young student went to the sacristy and returned immediately, saying: 'Father, it is the good Lord who appears in the Host. I see His divine face'. Since then, all my doubts disappeared. Slowly the entire town went to the church to see the miracle.

Journalists and people from the capital of Saint Denis also arrived. The face on the Host suddenly became animated and the crown of thorns disappeared. I used every possible precaution, and fearing the effects from the rays of light, I had all the candles extinguished and the shutters closed. The phenomenon became even more clear. There was a young artist among the visitors who faithfully reproduced the face in the Host. Later, the vision changed again and a crucifix appeared which covered the entire Host from top to bottom. After the Eucharistic blessing and recital of the *Tantum Ergo*, the vision disappeared."