

Eucharistic Miracle of MACERATA

ITALY, 1356



On April 25 1356, at Macerata, a priest whose name is not known was celebrating Mass in the chapel of the Church of St. Catherine, owned by the Benedictine monks. During the breaking of the Eucharistic Bread before Holy Communion, the priest began to doubt the Real Presence of Jesus in the consecrated Host. Precisely at the moment in which he broke the Host, to his great surprise, he saw flow from the Host an abundance of Blood which stained part of the corporal, and the chalice placed on the altar.



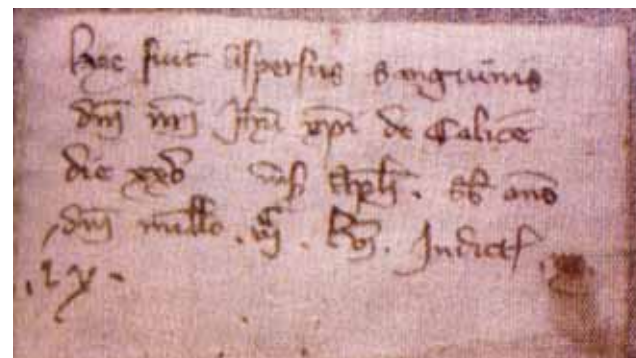
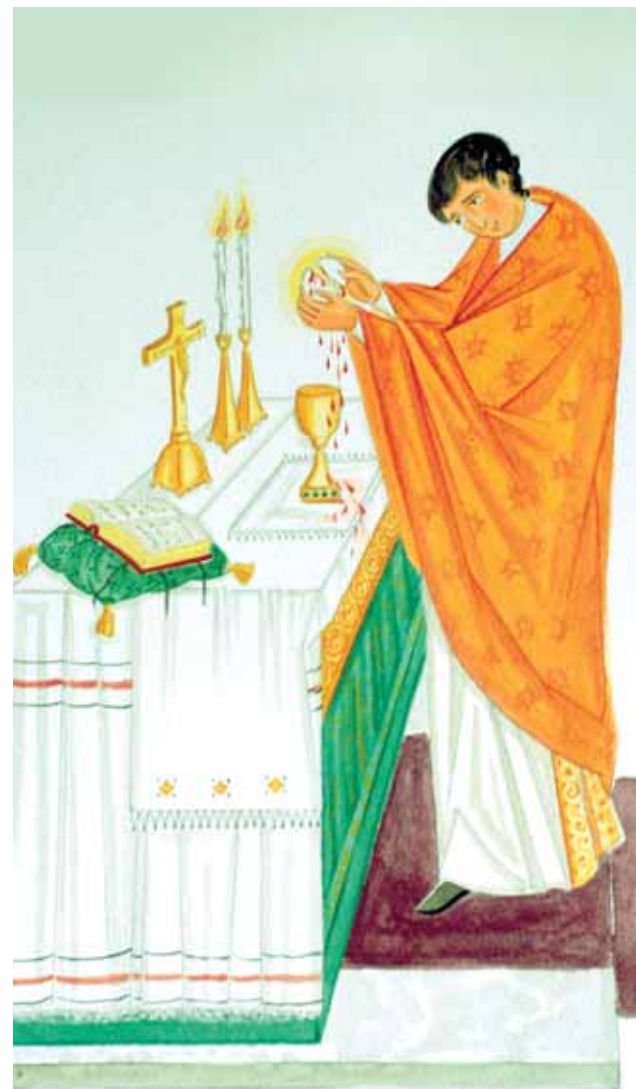
Macerata Cathedral



Relic of the Blood-Stained Corporal



View of Macerata



Small parchment from 1356 on which is written: "Here came the flow of Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ from the chalice on April 25 in the Year of Our Lord 1356"

At Macerata in the church of the Cathedral of Holy Mary Assumed and St. Giuliano, under the altar of the Most Holy Sacrament, it is possible to venerate the relic of the "corporal marked by Blood." Also preserved in this church is the parchment on which the miracle is described. Furthermore, the historian Ferdinando Ughelli cited this miracle in his work *Sacred Italy* of 1647 and describes how since the fourteenth century "the corporal has been carried in solemn procession through the city, enclosed in an urn of crystal and silver, with the concurrence of all Piceno." All of the documents likewise agree in the description of how the miraculous facts occurred. An anonymous priest, during the Mass, was struck with strong doubts about the reality of the transubstantiation, and when he broke the Great Host, he saw blood drop from

the Host and fall onto the corporal and chalice. The priest immediately informed Bishop Nicholas of San Martino, who ordered that the relic of the Blood-stained cloth be carried into the cathedral and he instituted a regular canonical process.

In 1493 one of the first confraternities in honor of the Most Blessed Sacrament was instituted at Macerata (1494) and it was here that the pious practice of Forty Hours was established in 1556. Every year on the occasion of Corpus Christi, the corporal of the miracle is carried in procession behind the Most Blessed Sacrament.



Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament where the relic is kept