

Eucharistic Miracle of SIENA

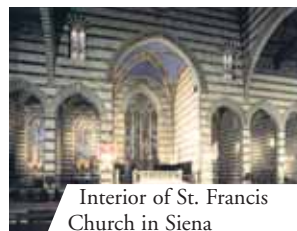
ITALY, 1730



In the Basilica of San Francesco in Siena, 223 consecrated Hosts have remained intact for 276 years. (Archbishop Tiberio Borghese sealed *unconsecrated* hosts in a tin box for ten years. The scientific commission put in charge when the box was reopened found only worms and rotted fragments.) The Siena event is against any physical and biological law. The scientist Enrico Medi stated: “This direct intervention from God is the miracle [...], accomplished and maintained for centuries, to testify to the permanent reality of Christ in the Eucharistic Sacrament”.



Basilica of St. Francis, Siena



Interior of St. Francis Church in Siena



The Sacred Hosts of Siena



His Holiness John Paul II in 1980 in Siena in adoration before the Hosts of the miracle



The sacred Hosts in the processional monstrance



Detail of a painting depicting the Hosts of the miracle in Santa Maria in Provenzano



Fourteen tests were made to verify the condition of the Hosts. The most scientific one was the one requested by St. Pius X in 1914, attended by many scientists



This painting of Master Stefano di Giovanni, known as “il Sassetta,” is preserved in England in the Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle. It depicts the scene of another Eucharistic miracle that took place near Siena in a Carmelite monastery. The painting depicts a Carmelite monk who, tormented by doubts regarding the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, is freed from the devil after receiving Communion

Among the most important documents that describe the miracle, is a memoir written by a certain Macchi in 1730, in which is written that on August 14, 1730 thieves were able to enter San Francesco's Church in Siena and steal the chalice containing 351 consecrated Hosts. After three days, on August 17th, the 351 consecrated Hosts were found intact in the dust of the alms box of the sanctuary of Santa Maria in Provengano. The entire population celebrated the finding of the consecrated Hosts which were immediately taken back to the church of San Francesco in a solemn procession. With the passing of time the Hosts did not change in appearance. Many times, distinguished men examined them with every means available and the conclusions were always the same: “The Sacred Hosts are still fresh, intact, uncorrupted, chemically pure, and do not present any sign of

alteration”. In 1914, Pope St. Pius X authorized a test which was attended by many professors of health, chemistry and pharmaceuticals, among whom was also the well-known Professor Siro Grimaldi.

The final conclusion of the edited report of the test stated: “The Sacred Hosts of Siena are the classic example of the perfect conservation of particles from unleavened bread, consecrated in the year 1730, and constitute a unique and most interesting phenomenon which reverses the natural laws of conservation of organic matter... It is strange, surprising, abnormal... the laws of nature have been reversed. In the glass there was mold, the unleavened bread has been more refractory of the crystal [...] it is a unique fact contained in the annals of science.”

Additional tests were done in 1922, on the occasion of the transfer of the Hosts in a cylinder of pure crystal, in 1950 and 1951. Pope John Paul II, during a visit in the city of Siena on September 14, 1980, said regarding the Hosts: “It is the Real Presence!” The permanent miracle of the Sacred Hosts is kept in the Chapel Piccolimini in the summer months, and in the Chapel Martinozzi in the winter months. Numerous are the initiatives that induce the citizens of Siena in honor of the Sacred Hosts: the tribute of the political districts, the respect of children having recently made their First Holy Communion, the solemn procession in the celebration of Corpus Christi, the Eucharistic ceremony at the end of September, the day of Eucharistic adoration on the 17th of each month in memory of the recovery of the Sacred Hosts on August 17, 1730.