

ITALY, 1230-1595

Eucharistic Miracles of Florence



In the Church of St. Ambrose in Florence, the relics of two Eucharistic Miracles, one which occurred in the year 1230 and the other in the year 1595, are preserved.

In the Miracle of 1230, a priest named Father Ugucione, as he finished Mass, by mistake left some drops of the consecrated wine in the chalice. The following day, when he returned to celebrate Mass in the same church, he found in the chalice some drops of living blood which had coagulated and turned into flesh-color. The blood was immediately placed into a cruet made of crystal. Among the most authoritative testimonies which recount this miracle is that of the historian Giovanni Villani. In 1399, Pope Boniface IX, granted to the faithful who visited the Church of St. Ambrose and contributed to the adornment of the Reliquary of the Miracle the same indulgence granted for those visiting the Porziuncola in Assisi. In 1980, the 750th anniversary of the Miracle was commemorated.

The second Eucharistic Miracle took place on Good Friday of the year 1595. By accident, a candle was left lit on the altar of the side chapel, named the Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre, causing a raging fire. The people ran at once to put out the fire and managed to salvage the Blessed Sacrament and the chalice. In the general confusion, six consecrated Hosts fell from the

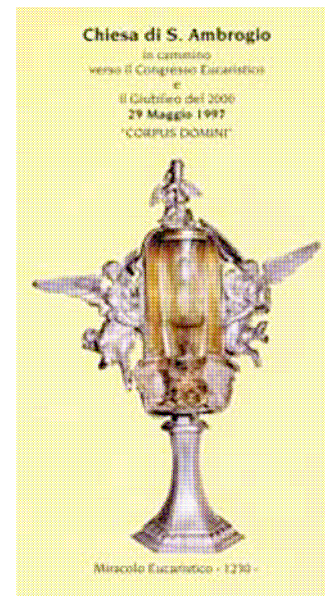
ciborium onto the flaming carpet, and yet despite the fire, the Hosts were recovered intact and still next to each other. In 1628, the Archbishop of Florence, Marzio Medici, after examining them, found them to be incorrupt and so had them placed in a precious reliquary. Each year, during the Forty Hours devotion which takes place, the Relics of the two miracles are exposed together in a reliquary also containing a consecrated Host for public adoration.



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



- (1) Basilica of St. Ambrose, Florence
- (2) Interior of the Basilica of St. Ambrose
- (3) The precious Tabernacle, sculpted by Mino of Fiesole, where the Relics of the two Miracles are preserved
- (4) Details of the decorations present in the tabernacle where the Relics of the two Eucharistic Miracles are preserved