

ITALY, 6th-7th Century

Eucharistic Miracle of Rome

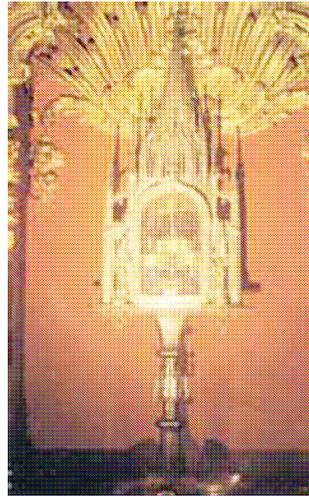
Among the most important works in which this Eucharistic Miracle, which occurred in Rome in the year 595, is mentioned is *The Life of Blessed Pope Gregory*, written by a deacon named Paul in 787.



It was the custom in those days that the bread used for the Eucharistic Celebration was prepared by the faithful themselves. Pope St. Gregory the Great was a direct witness of this Miracle. One Sunday, while he was celebrating Holy Mass in the ancient church dedicated to St. Peter, at the time for distributing Holy Communion, he noticed that among the faithful standing in line there was also present one of the women who had prepared the bread for the Consecration. She was laughing out loud. The Pope, visibly disturbed, asked her what was the reason for her behavior. The woman defended herself by saying she could not bring herself to believe how it was possible that the bread which she herself had prepared with her hands, thanks to the words of consecration, had become the Body and Blood of Christ. At that point, St. Gregory prohibited her from going to Communion and implored God to enlighten her. Just when he finished praying, he saw the very portion of bread prepared by that woman change into flesh and blood. The woman, repentant, knelt down to the ground and began to weep. Even today, part of the Relic of the Miracle is preserved at Andechs in Germany, at the local Benedictine Monastery.



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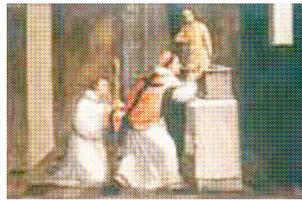
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(1) The Church of the Benedictine Monastery at Andechs

(2) Reliquary at Andechs, which today still contains the Host from the Miracle

(3) Painting of Nicolò Circignani, also known as Il Pomarancio, *The Eucharistic Miracle of St. Gregory the Great*, lunette of the portico in the atrium of the Church of St. Gregory the Great at Celio, Rome

(4) *The Miraculous Mass of St. Gregory the Great*, by Domenico Cresti (1559-1638)

(5) *Mass of St. Gregory*, the Hieron Museum, Paray-le-Monial

(6) Adrien Ysenbrandt, 16th century. *Apparitions of Jesus with the signs of the Passion during a Mass of St. Gregory*