

ITALY, 1171

Eucharistic Miracle of Ferrara



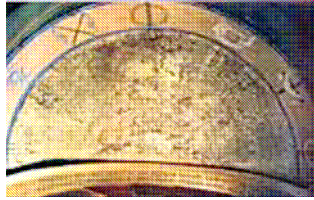
This Eucharistic Miracle occurred at Ferrara, at the Basilica of Santa Maria in Vado, on Easter Sunday (March 28, 1171). Fr. Peter of Verona, prior of the Basilica, assisted by three of his friars (Bono, Leonardo and Aimone) was celebrating Easter Mass and when the time came for the breaking of the consecrated Host, he saw a stream of blood spray from the consecrated Host, which stained the little vault overhanging the altar of sacrifice with its tiny drops. Bishop Amata of Ferrara as well as Archbishop of Gherardo were immediately informed of the occurrence, and were able to see in person “the Blood which appeared in a lively red color on the little vault above the altar.” In 1595, to better preserve it, the little vault was enclosed in a small shrine which still can be seen at the Basilica of Santa Maria in Vado at Ferrara. In the earliest documents, the testimonies of some of the faithful who were present at the miracle are recorded, in which they tell of seeing the Host assume a blood-red color and of noticing the figure of an Infant in it. The church immediately

became a pilgrimage site, and was successively restored and expanded by order of Duke Ercole (Hercules) I of Este, beginning in 1495. Among the most authoritative testimonies that report the Miracle, there is the Bull of Pope Eugene IV (March 30, 1442) and the manuscript of Gerardo Cambrense from the year 1197 which is preserved at the Lamberth Library in Canterbury. Even today, in the Basilica, now in the care of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood of St. Gaspare of Bufalo, Eucharistic Adoration is held on the 28th day of each month in commemoration of the Miracle, and each year, in preparation for the feast of Corpus Christi, the Forty Hours’ Devotion is celebrated. In 1971, the 800th anniversary of the Miracle was celebrated.

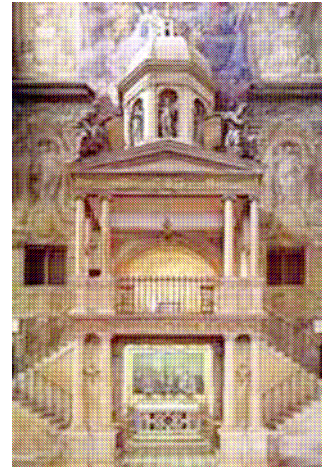




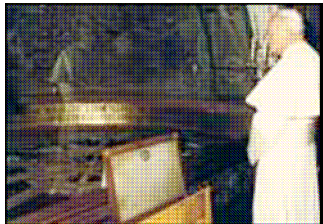
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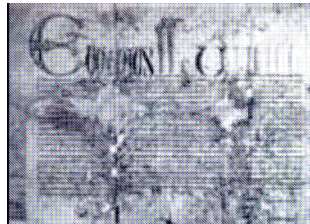
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(6)

- (1) The Church of Santa Maria in Vado, Ferrara (Italy)
- (2) The little vault sprinkled in Blood.
- (3) The little shrine which encloses the Sacred Vault (1594). The right side of the cross-vault.
- (4) Pope John Paul II standing in front of the Vault at Ferrara.
- (5) Bull of Pope Eugene IV.
- (6) Painting by Bodoni, *The Miracle of the Blood.*, Canvas placed on the ceiling of the Shrine.