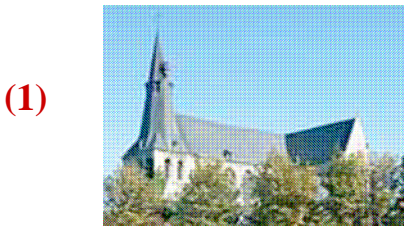# BELGIUM, 1347   Eucharistic Miracle of Middleburg-Louvain
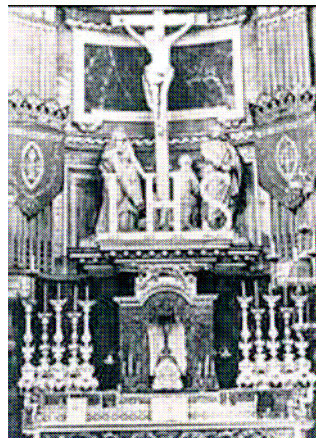

At Middleburg, there lived a noblewoman known to all for her great faith and piety. She was likewise very diligent in caring for the spiritual formation of her children and her servants. During Lent in 1374, as she did each year, she began to do penance in preparation for the coming season of Easter. A few days earlier, she had received into her household a new servant named Jean (John), who had not gone to confession for many years, while leading a very dissolute life. The woman invited all her servants to go with her to Mass. Jean did not dare to turn down the invitation, in order not to disappoint her. He participated in the entire Eucharistic celebration, and when it came his turn to receive Holy Communion, he approached the altar very superficially. Just as he received the Host on his tongue, it was transformed into bleeding Flesh. At that point, Jean spit the Host out of his mouth at once, as blood from the Host trickled on to the cloth which covered the balustrade in front of the altar. The priest understood immediately what was happening and with great emotion carefully placed the miraculous Host on a tray inside the tabernacle. Jean, repenting, confessed his sins in front of everyone. From that day on, he led an exemplary life and maintained until the end a great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. All the ecclesiastical and civil authorities of the city were informed of the miraculous event, and the Archbishop, after detailed investigations, approved the devotion surrounding the Miracle. A part of the Host is still preserved today at the Augustinian Fathers monastery in Louvain. The other part is kept at the Church of St. Peter in Middleburg.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(1) Church of St. James, Louvain
(2) Altar where the Miracle took place
(3) Illustration in which the Miracle is depicted, the Church of St. James, Louvain