

SPAIN, 1010

Eucharistic Miracle of Ivorra

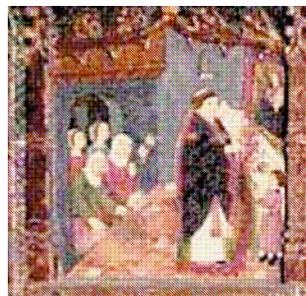


In the 11th century, heretical doctrines which denied the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist began to spread throughout Europe. The priest in Ivorra, Father Bernat Oliver, himself also doubted the truth of Transubstantiation. Precisely while he was celebrating Holy Mass, the Miracle unexpectedly took place: the wine in the chalice turned into Blood and spilled out onto the altar cloth, eventually spilling onto the floor. The Bishop of Urgell in Sant' Ermengol, when he was informed of the occurrence, immediately went to Ivorra himself to find out in person what the facts were, which were then referred at once directly to Pope Sergius IV in Rome. The Pope signed a Papal Bull in which he certified that a true Miracle had taken place. The Relics of the Miracle and the Papal document were placed

under the main altar of the parish church of San Cugat in Ivorra, which was dedicated in the year 1055 by Bishop Guillem of Urgell. Presently, the sacred Relics are preserved in a Gothic reliquary which since 1426 has contained the altar cloth stained with the Precious Blood and other relics donated by Pope Sergius IV to Sant' Ermengol. In 1663, to meet the needs of the great number of pilgrims who were gathering every year to commemorate the Miracle, a new Shrine was built. To this day, every year on the second Sunday of Easter, an important feast called the "la Santa Duda" ("Feast of the Holy Doubt") in reference to the "doubt" experienced by the priest of Ivorra, Father Bernat Oliver, and the great Miracle which dispelled that doubt.



(1) Interior of the shrine



(2)

Detail of one of the paintings found in the interior of the Shrine which depicts the scene of the wine transformed into the Precious Blood spilling out