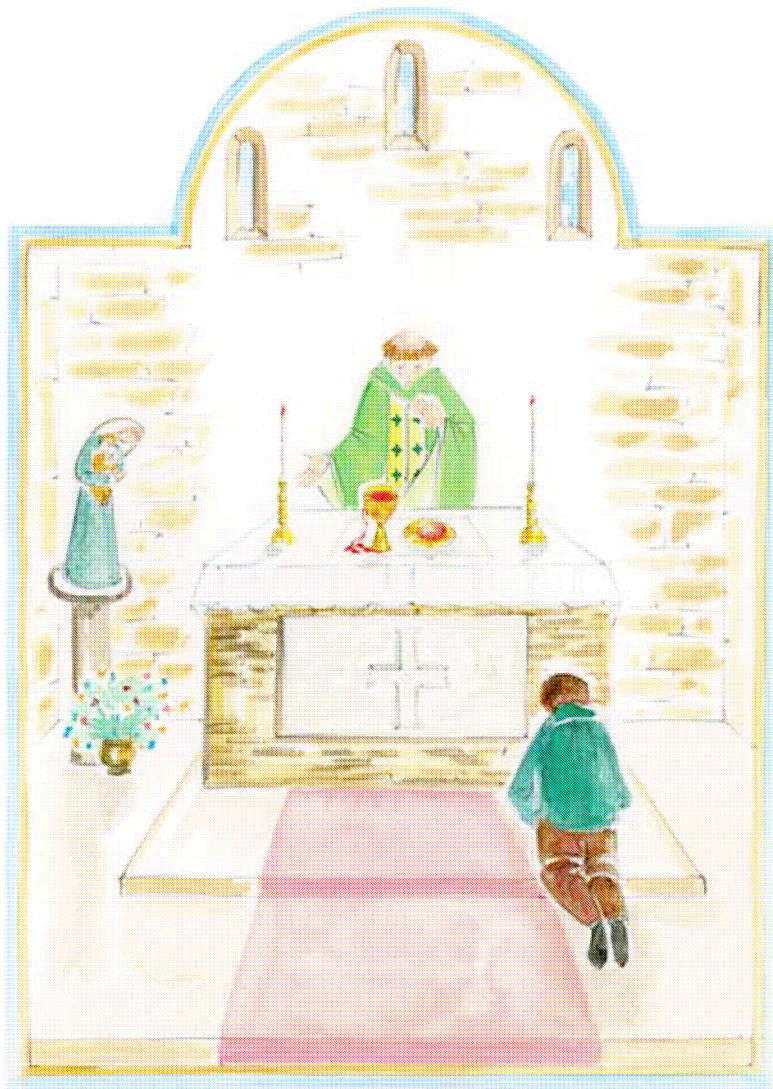


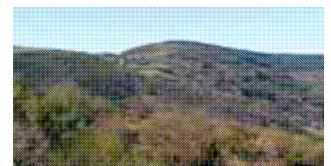
SPAIN, 1300

Eucharistic Miracle of O’Cebreiro



In a freezing winter of 1300, a Benedictine priest was celebrating Holy Mass in a side chapel in the church of the monastery at O’Cebreiro. He assumed that on that harsh winter day, in which snow was falling in abundance and the wind was unbearable, no one would dare come to attend Holy Mass. He was mistaken. A peasant of Barzamaior named Juan Santín made his way up to the monastery to participate in the Mass. The priest celebrating the Mass, who did not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, despised the sacrifice in his heart and likewise despised the good will of the peasant. He began to celebrate the Mass with this disposition and just after he pronounced the words of consecration, the Host was turned into Flesh and the wine into Blood, which spilled out of the chalice, staining the corporal. It appears likewise the head of the wooden statue of the Virgin Mary was bowed in adoration at the moment of the Miracle. The people today call it the “Madonna of the

Miracle.” The Lord wished to open the eyes of the unbelieving priest who had doubted and to reward the great devotion of the peasant. For almost two hundred years, the Host turned into Flesh was left on the paten, until Queen Isabella, while making her way on pilgrimage to Saint James of Compostela, passed through O’Cebreiro and came to learn of the Miracle. The Queen at once had a precious reliquary made of crystal and fitted to contain the miraculous Host. Each year, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, August 15th (the Assumption of the BVM), and September 8th (the Nativity of the BVM), the Relics of the Miracle are carried in procession together with the statue of the Virgin Mary. Among the many documents which testify to the authenticity of the miracle, we cite the Bull of Pope Innocent VIII in 1487 and that of Pope Alexander VI in 1496, as well as a report of Father Yepes.



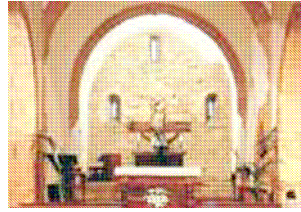
(1)



(2)



(3)



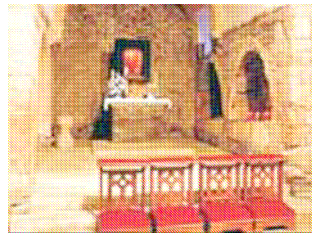
(4)



(5)



(6)



(7)



- (1) Panoramic view of O'Cebreiro
- (2) Shrine of O'Cebreiro
- (3) Altar where the Miracle took place
- (4) The Madonna of the Miracle
- (5) Interior of the Church of St. Mary
- (6) Chapel where the Relics of the Miracle are preserved
- (7) Relics of the Chalice, the Paten, and the Precious Blood of the Miracle