

**PORTUGAL, 1266**

## **Eucharistic Miracle of Santarém**



According to the data recorded on the copy of a document commissioned by King Alfonso IV in 1346, on February 16, 1266 at Santarém ( in Portugal), a young woman, seized with jealousy towards her husband, consulted a sorceress, who advised her to go to church and steal a consecrated Host in order to make a love potion from it. The woman stole the Host and hid it in a linen cloth, which at once was stained with Blood. Terrified, she ran to her home, where she opened up the handkerchief to see what happened. With great amazement, she saw that the Blood was gushing from the Host itself. Confused, the woman put the Host in a small drawer in her bedroom, but during the night, beams of light radiated from the drawer, making

the room bright as in daylight. Her husband likewise noticed the strange phenomenon and began to question his wife, who then had to tell him the whole story. The following day, the couple informed the Pastor, who went to their house and picked up the Host, taking it back to the Church of St. Stephen in solemn procession, followed by many religious and laymen. The Host continued to bleed for three consecutive days. It was then placed in a magnificent reliquary made of bees' wax. In 1340, another Miracle took place there, when a priest opened the tabernacle and found the waxen vessel broken in pieces, and in its place was a vessel made of crystal, inside of which the Blood of the Host was found mixed with the wax. Today, the Miraculous Host is preserved in an 18th century monstrance above the main altar. The Church of St. Stephen is known as the Shrine of the Holy Miracle. The Host has dripped Blood on several occasions over the centuries, and various images of Our Lord Jesus Christ have been seen to appear in it. Among the testimonies to the Miracle is likewise St. Francis Xavier, the apostle of India, who visited the Shrine before departing on his mission. Ever since the occurrence of the Miracle, every year on the second Sunday of April, the precious Relic is carried in procession from the married couple's house to the Church of St. Stephen.

(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)



(6)



- (1) Shrine of the Most Holy Miracle, Santarém
- (2) Relic of the Miraculous Host
- (3) The cruet containing the Blood which dripped from the Host
- (4) Interior of the Shrine of the Most Holy Miracle, Santarém
- (5) Home of the sacrilegious woman transformed into a small Chapel, Santarém
- (6) Medal commemorating the Miracle of Santarém