

Eucharistic Miracles

THE EUCHARIST

BREAD OF LIFE



EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE STORIES

These Eucharistic miracles stories and their beautiful drawings are made possible by

Antonia Salzano Acutis

Curator of the Pontifical Academy Cultorum Martyrum
President of the Institute of Saint Clement I Pope and Martyr

Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano
ITALY, 750



In the year 750, at Lanciano in the Abruzzo region of Italy, above the place where the Church dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi stands today, a Eucharistic Miracle took place whose precious Relics are still preserved today, and which it is possible to visit. The various chronicles of the time recount how in the year 750, a priest was celebrating Holy Mass. At the exact moment of the Consecration, he was tormented by strong doubts as to whether the Body and Blood of Jesus were truly present in the consecrated Host. He had just finished the Consecration when he noticed that the Host had been transformed into Flesh and the Wine into Blood. The priest, filled with regret for having doubted, began to weep and beg pardon from God. In the chronicles, the testimony of numerous members of the faithful who witnessed the Miracle, are also recorded. In 1970, analysis of the Relics confirmed that the Host transformed into Flesh is true Flesh, consisting of striated muscle tissue of the myocardium (part of the heart) and that the Wine transformed into Blood is true Blood of the blood type AB, which is the same as that found on the Shroud of Turin.

Eucharistic Miracle of Rome
ITALY, 6th – 7th Century



While Pope St. Gregory was celebrating Holy Mass in the ancient church dedicated to St. Peter, at the moment of distributing Holy Communion, he noticed that among the faithful standing in line was also present one of the women who had prepared the bread for consecration (it was the custom in those days that the bread used for the Mass was prepared by the faithful themselves). The woman, however, was laughing out loud, and the Pope asked her the reason for her behavior. The woman defended herself by saying she could not bring herself to believe how it was possible that the very bread which she herself had prepared with her own hands, thanks to the words of the consecration, became the Body and Blood of Christ. St. Gregory then prohibited her from going to Communion and began to pray to God to enlighten her. He had just finished praying when he saw that very piece of bread prepared by this woman turn into flesh and blood, at which point the woman repented, fell to her knees, and began to weep. Part of the Reliquary is still preserved to this day at the Benedictine Monastery in Andechs, Germany.

Eucharistic Miracle of Trani
ITALY, 11th Century



At Trani in the Puglis region of Italy, the Relic of a Eucharistic Miracle which took place around the year 1000 is preserved in the Church of St. Andrew. A woman of a non-Christian religion, not believing in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, was pretending to be a Christian, and during the celebration of Mass managed to steal a consecrated Host, which after she arrived home, she put into a pan full of grease and fried it over the fire. Upon contact with the boiling oil, the Host miraculously became flesh and so much blood began to pour out that it spilled onto the floor. The woman, terrified, began to shout so loud that she drew the attention of the whole neighborhood, as well as the civil and church authorities.

Eucharistic Miracle of St. Peter Damian
ITALY, 11th Century



It is St. Peter Damian himself, a Doctor of the Church, who describes this miracle, of which he was a direct witness. In the year 1050, a young woman, urged on by a sorceress, managed to steal a consecrated Host in order to commit a sacrilege. The woman hid the Host in a handkerchief and headed immediately toward the exit of the church, but the priest caught up with her right away and demanded that she give the Host back to him. The woman then opened the handkerchief and noticed that the Host was transformed in such a way that half had become bleeding Flesh, while the other half remained the same.

Eucharistic Miracle of Alatri
ITALY, 1228



At Alatri, the Relic of a Eucharistic Miracle which occurred in the year 1228, consisting of a fragment of a Host transformed into flesh, is still preserved today at the Cathedral of St. Paul the Apostle. A young woman, to win back the love of her fiancé, had recourse to a sorceress, who ordered her to steal a consecrated Host to make a love potion out of it. During a Mass, at the time of Holy Communion, the young woman managed to steal a Host, which she hid in a piece of cloth. When she arrived home, she noticed that the Host had been transformed into bleeding flesh. The woman then ran immediately to the sorceress, and together they went to the Bishop to ask for pardon. Numerous documents speak of this Miracle, including a Papal Bull *Fraternitas Tuae* of March 13, 1228, written by Pope Gregory IX in response to the Bishop of Alatri, who asked him how he should act in regard to the two sacrilegious women. The Supreme Pontiff Gregory IX, pardoned the two penitent women, interpreting the incident as a sign sent by the Lord in response to the various heresies concerning the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist which were circulating at that time.

Eucharistic Miracles of Florence
ITALY, 1230-1595

Florence 1230



Florence 1595



The Relics of two Eucharistic Miracles, which took place in 1230 and in 1595 respectively, are preserved in the Church of St. Ambrose in Florence.

In the Miracle of 1230, a priest named Fr. Ugucione, having finished Holy Mass, by mistake left behind some drops of the consecrated Wine in the chalice. The following day, returning to the same church to celebrate Mass, he found in the chalice some drops of coagulated, living blood of a flesh color. The blood was immediately poured into a cruet made of crystal. In 1980, the 750th anniversary of the miracle was commemorated.

The Second Eucharistic Miracle took place on Good Friday of the year 1595. By mistake, a candle was left still lit on the altar of the side chapel, called the Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre, which caused a raging fire. The people ran immediately to put out the fire and succeeded in salvaging the Blessed Sacrament and the chalice. In the general confusion, six consecrated Hosts fell from the ciborium onto the flaming carpet, and despite the fire, they were recovered intact and still next to each other. In 1628, the Archbishop of Florence, Marzio Medici, after having examined them, found them to be incorrupt and therefore had them placed in a precious Reliquary.

Eucharistic Miracle of Volterra
ITALY 1472



In 1472, during the war which broke out between Volterra and Florence, a Florentine soldier, having entered the Cathedral of Volterra, succeeded in taking possession of the precious ciborium, made of ivory, which contained several consecrated Hosts. As he was leaving the church, seized by a fit of anger toward Jesus in the Eucharist, he threw the ciborium with its precious contents against a wall of the church. All the Hosts fell out of the ciborium, but illuminated by a mysterious light, they rose up in thin air and remained suspended there for some time. The soldier then fell to the ground in fear, and having repented, began to weep. There were numerous witnesses who were present at this miracle.

Eucharistic Miracle of Dronero
ITALY 1631



On Sunday, August 3rd in 1631, around the time for Vespers, a great fire broke out in the little town of Dronero, in the region under the reign of the Marquis of Saluzzo. A young peasant woman carelessly set fire to some dry straw at the very moment when the wind was growing stronger because of an impending storm. In a few seconds, the flames spread violently, engulfing the dwellings on the Borgo Maira. The people attempted in every way to put out the fire, but every attempt turned out futile. The fire, meanwhile, kept spreading more and more. Father Maurizio of Cava, a Capuchin priest, was inspired to have recourse to the power of Jesus hidden under the veil of the Eucharistic species. He at once organized a solemn procession with the Blessed Sacrament, and followed by all the citizens, moved toward the place of the fire. At the approach of the Blessed Sacrament, the fire miraculously stopped.

Eucharistic Miracle of Cava dei Tirreni
ITALY, 1656



At Naples, in May of 1656, a terrible epidemic of the plague broke out because of the invasion by Spanish soldiers from Sardinia. The epidemic spread quite rapidly in the villages and in the surrounding countryside, arriving also in the small town of Cava dei Tirreni. There were thousands of victims, both in the city and in the countryside. Father Paolo Franco, one of the few spared by the plague, inspired from on high, and defying every danger, called the people together and directed that a procession of reparation be made to Mount Castello, situated at a distance of a few kilometers. When they arrived at the top of the mountain, Fr. Franco blessed Cava dei Tirreni with the Blessed Sacrament. The plague miraculously ended and even today, each year in the month of June, the people of Cava march in solemn procession in commemoration of the miracle.

Eucharistic Miracle of Patierno
ITALY, 1772



In 1772, unknown robbers stole a certain number of consecrated Hosts from the Church of St. Peter in Patierno which were recovered in the territory of the Duke of Grottolelle a month later, under a pile of manure, completely intact. It was possible to find them thanks to the appearance of mysterious rays of light and a dove over the place where they were buried. Saint Alphonsus Maria di Liguori described this Miracle in detail. Moreover, the circumference of the Particles stolen from the Church of St. Peter at Patierno perfectly matched the iron mold used to fashion them, along with the incision marking them as property of that same Church of St. Peter.

Eucharistic Miracle of Saint Mauro la Bruca
ITALY, 1969



On the night of July 25, 1969, some thieves secretly came inside the parish church of St. Mauro la Bruca intending to steal its most precious objects.

After forcing open the tabernacle, they also stole from it the ciborium containing several consecrated Hosts. Just after they left the church, the robbers threw the Hosts onto a small path. The following morning, a small child noticed a small pile of Hosts at the corner of the path, and after gathering them up, immediately delivered them back to the pastor. Only in 1994, after 25 years of thorough analysis, did Most Reverend Biagio d'Agostino, Bishop of Vallo della Lucania, officially recognize the miraculous preservation of the Hosts and approved their veneration. From the analysis carried out by scientists and chemists, we now know that normally, unleavened flour is heavily damaged already after six months, and at a maximum of a few years, is reduced to pulp and then to dust.

Eucharistic Miracles of Meerssen
HOLLAND, 1222-1465

Meerssen 1222

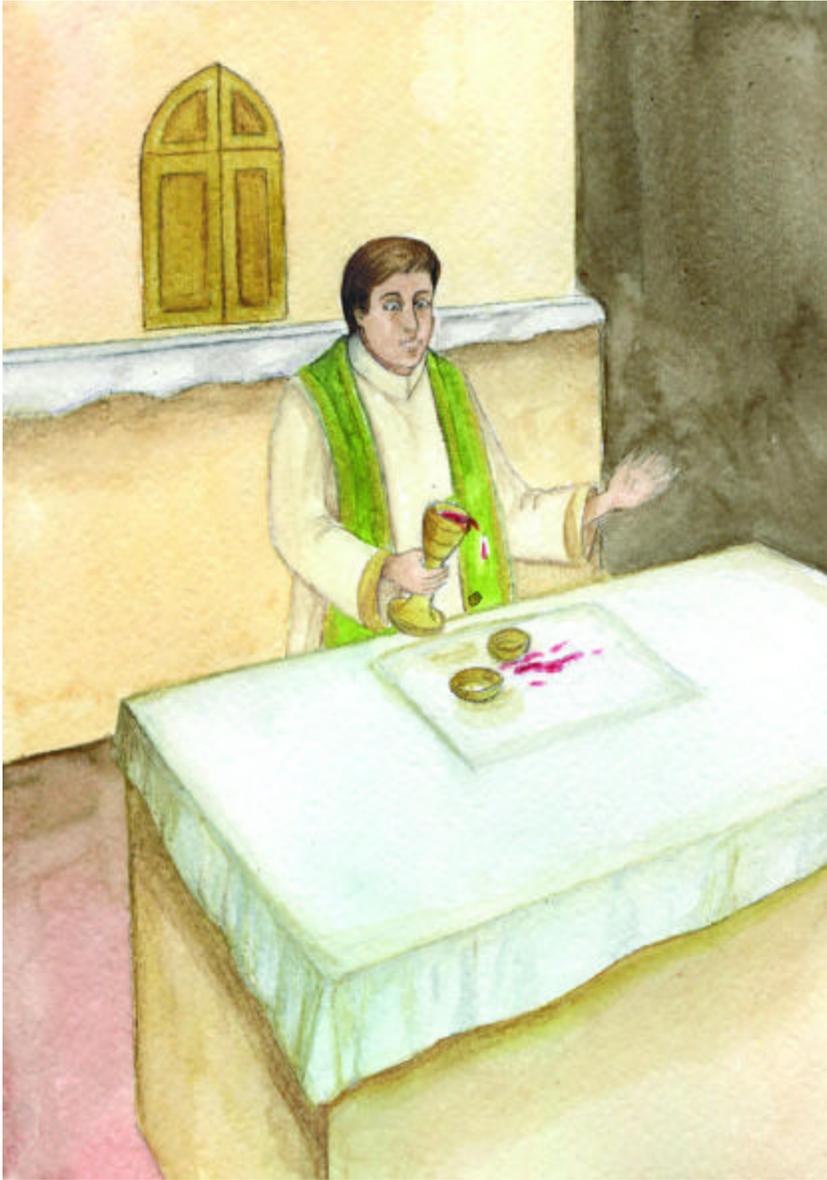


Meerssen 1465



In the small town of Meerssen, in 1222 and in 1465, two important Eucharistic Miracles were confirmed. In the first Miracle, during Holy Mass, from the big consecrated Host, living Blood poured out which stained the corporal. In the second Miracle, in 1465, a peasant succeeded in saving the Relic of the Miracle from a fire which destroyed the entire church. This episode was remembered by the inhabitants with the name of “the Miracle of the fire.” Despite the fire, the church was immediately rebuilt, and in 1938, Pope Pius XI elevated it to the status of a Minor Basilica.

Eucharistic Miracle of Boxtel-Hoogstraten
HOLLAND, 1380



In 1380, the priest Fr. Eligio van der Aker was celebrating Holy Mass at the Church of St. Peter. Shortly after consecrating the species of wine, he accidentally spilled it on the corporal and on the altar cloth. Even though he had used white wine for the Mass, it was transformed into Blood. At the end of the celebration, the priest ran into the sacristy and tried to remove the Blood stains from the sacred linens, but every attempt of his was useless. Not knowing what to do, he hid the altar cloth and the corporal in a case under his bed. It was only when he was about to die that he revealed the secret to his confessor, Father Henry van Meerheim, who immediately informed Cardinal Pileus, who at that time was the apostolic nuncio of Pope Urban VI and titular Archbishop of the Church of Saint Praxedes. The Cardinal, after conducting a thorough investigation of how these events unfolded, approved the veneration of the relics by decree on June 25, 1380.

Eucharistic Miracle of Alkmaar
HOLLAND, 1429



In the Cathedral of St. Lawrence at Alkmaar, there is preserved the precious Reliquary in the form of an Angel which contains the chasuble stained with blood from the Eucharistic Miracle which occurred in 1429. On May 1, 1429, a priest named Fr. Folkert celebrated his first Mass in the Cathedral of St. Lawrence. The pastor, Fr. Volpert Schult, also attended the celebration. Shortly after pronouncing the words of consecration, Fr. Folkert accidentally spilled the white wine contained in the chalice on his chasuble, and in its place there appeared living Blood. After Mass was over, giving in to panic, he cut off the hem of the chasuble stained with blood and burned it, and then took the torn part and began to sew it back together. After he finished mending it, the chasuble again was found to be stained with blood. The two priests, not knowing what to do, quickly went to the Bishop of Utrecht with the chasuble. Only in 1433 did the Bishop, after numerous canonical investigations, officially approve the veneration of the Miracle.

Eucharistic Miracle of Cimballa
SPAIN, 1370



The “Most Holy Doubtful Mystery” is the name by which the Eucharistic Miracle which occurred at Cimballa in 1370 at the church of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary is known. Father Tomás, the pastor of the church, had been tormented for many months by doubts regarding the Real Presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. One Sunday, during the celebration of Holy Mass, after pronouncing the words of consecration, Father Tomás saw the Host be transformed into Flesh and the Blood flow so abundantly from it that it spilled on to the corporal. The repentant priest began to weep from remorse and the faithful, seeing him so upset, ran at once up to the altar and saw the Miracle. The Relic was carried as it was in procession and the news of the Miracle spread everywhere. Many Miracles were attributed to the “Most Holy Doubtful Mystery” which from that time has always been an object of great devotion on the part of the faithful. The Relic of the corporal stained with Blood is exposed every year on September 12 on the occasion of the anniversary of the feast of the Miracle.

Eucharistic Miracle of Montserrat
SPAIN, 1657



In 1657, the Most Reverend Father Bernardo de Onteviros, General of the Benedictine Order in Spain, together with the Abbot Fr. Millán de Mirando, were in the monastery of Our Lady of Montserrat to participate in some conferences. During one of these, a woman with her little daughter came to the monastery and began to implore the Abbot Fr. Millán to celebrate three Masses in memory of her deceased father, deeply convinced that with these three Masses, the soul of her father would be freed from the pains of Purgatory. The good Abbot, moved by the tears of the little girl, began on the following day to celebrate the first Mass for the repose of his soul, when the little girl, who was present there with her mother, during the consecration began to remark that she saw her father bowing his head at the foot of the main altar, surrounded by dreadful flames. The Father General, skeptical, to test whether the little girl's story was true, told her to place a handkerchief into the flames which surrounded her father. The young girl, in accord with his request, placed a handkerchief in that mysterious fire, which only she was able to see, and immediately all the monks saw the handkerchief burn with a most brilliant flame. During the second Mass, the little girl declared that she saw her father standing up next to the deacon, dressed in an outfit of many vivid colors. At the third and final Mass, the father showed himself to his daughter, this time with an outfit as pure white as the snow. Just as the Mass ended, the little girl exclaimed: "Look at my father – he is leaving and going up to heaven!" The little girl then thanked the community of monks on behalf of her father, who had requested her to do so. The Most Reverend Father General of the Benedictine Order in Spain, the Bishop of Astorga, and many inhabitants of the region were present at this Miracle.

Blessed Alexandrina Maria da Costa
PORTUGAL, 1904-1955



Alexandrina Maria was born in Balasar (Portugal) on March 30, 1904. At age 14, while trying to flee and preserve her own chastity which was threatened by three men, she was unsuccessful in jumping from the window. The consequences were disastrous, although not immediate, and in fact, after several years, she was constrained to lie in bed for the remaining 30 years of her life because of a debilitating paralysis. She did not despair, but decided to put her trust in Jesus with these words: “As You are a prisoner in the tabernacle and I am a prisoner in my bed by your Will, we can keep each other company.” Afterwards, she began to have ever more intense mystical experiences, so that from Friday, October 3, 1938 to March 24, 1942, for at least 182 times, she experienced every Friday the sufferings of the Passion. Beginning in 1942 up to the time of her death, Alexandrina was fed only with the Holy Eucharist, and during her stay at the Foce del Douro Hospital in Oporto, she was examined by several doctors during her total fast and anuria (absence of urine). After ten long years of paralysis which she offered in Eucharistic reparation and for the conversion of sinners, on July 30, 1935, Jesus appeared to her and said: “I have placed you in the world to make you live only by Me, to give testimony to the world of how precious is the Eucharist [...] The strongest chain that binds souls to Satan is the flesh, the sins of impurity. Never has there been seen such a spread of vices, evil deeds, and crimes as there is today! Never had there been so much sin [...] The Eucharist, My Body and Blood – the Eucharist: this is the salvation of the world.” Mary also appeared to Alexandrina on September 2, 1949, with rosary beads in her hand, telling her: “The world is in agony and is dying in sin. I desire prayer, I desire penance. Protect with this my Holy Rosary all those whom you love and the whole world.” On October 13, 1955, the anniversary of the last apparition of the Virgin Mary at Fatima, Alexandrina was heard exclaiming: “I am happy, for I am going to heaven.” At 7:30 in the evening that same day, she died.

For over thirteen years she nourishes herself with just the Eucharist

Saint Catherine Labouré
FRANCE, 1830

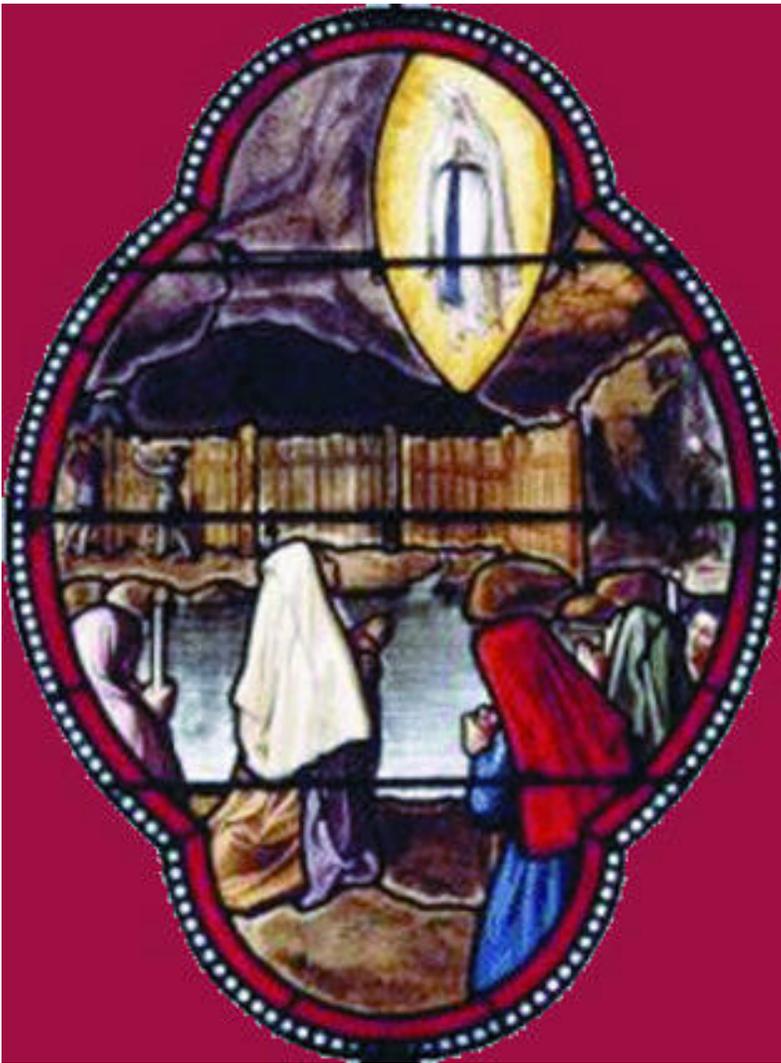


Catherine Labouré was born on May 2, 1806 to a family of farmers. On April 21, 1830, she entered the religious order of the Daughters of Charity at the mother house on the Rue de Bac in Paris. Here Catherine, in 1830, received the famous apparition of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, who told her: “Have a medal minted according to what you see before you: whoever wears it around their neck will receive great graces.” During her entire period of residence on the Rue de Bac, Catherine also received the grace of seeing Jesus in the consecrated Host, at the moment of Holy Communion as well as during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Catherine herself describes the moment of the apparition in this way: “While I was making Eucharistic Adoration in deep silence, I seemed to hear from the side of the apse a sound like the rustling of a silk dress. I looked up and saw the Blessed Virgin. She was of medium height and indescribable beauty. A white veil was draped over her head and flowed down almost to her feet, which were standing on a half-globe. Her hands, raised to the level of her waist, supported in a very natural way another globe which was smaller and golden, surmounted by a cross of pure gold. She had her eyes turned toward Heaven. While I was intent on contemplating it, she lowered

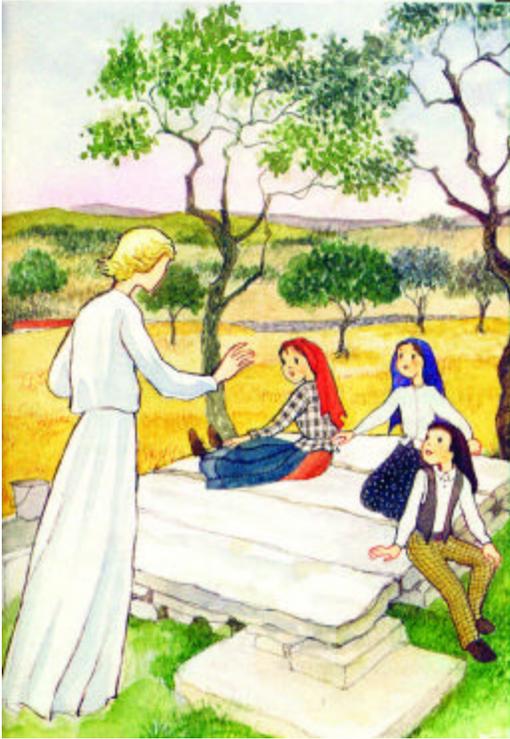
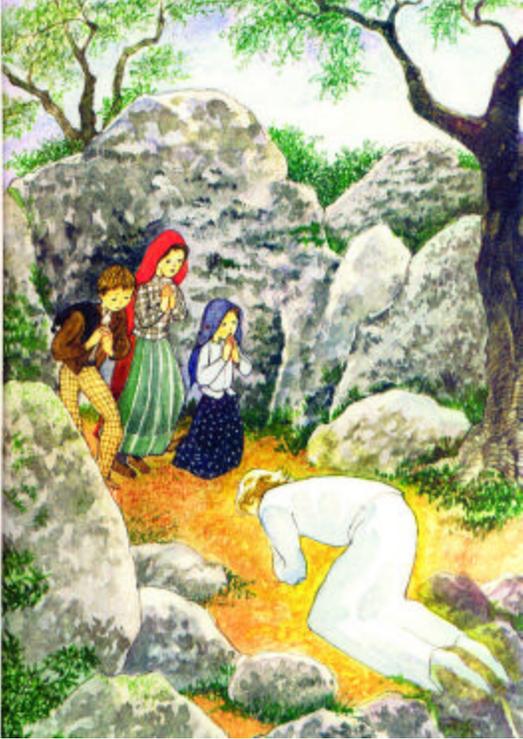
her eyes toward me and said these words to me: “This globe which you see represents the entire world, France in particular, and every individual person.” And the Virgin added: “The rays are a symbol of the graces which I shower upon those who ask them from me,” in this way making me realize how sweet it is to pray to the Blessed Virgin and how generous She is to those who invoke her. And then, I saw an oval-shaped background form around the Blessed Virgin, on which in an upward direction, forming a semicircle from Mary’s right hand to her left, could be read these words, written in golden letters: “O MARY, CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN, PRAY FOR US WHO HAVE RECOURSE TO THEE.” At this point, the globe which the Blessed Virgin had offered to God disappeared. Her hands, laden with graces, were bent toward the globe on which She rested her feet, subduing the head of a greenish serpent with yellow spots. Suddenly the scene was turned around and I was presented with the “back of the medal,” which displayed the monogram of Mary surmounted by the Cross; in the background were two Hearts: that of Jesus crowned with thorns and that of Mary pierced by a sword. All around, serving as a frame, there was a royal crown of twelve stars. At that point I heard a voice which said to me: “Have a medal minted on this pattern. All those who have such a medal blessed and wear it, especially around the neck, and recite the short invocation (“O Mary, conceived without sin...”), will rejoice in the special protection of the Mother of God and receive great graces. These graces will be in abundance for those who wear it faithfully.”

Eucharistic Miracles of Lourdes
FRANCE, 1888



On August 22, 1888, at 4:00 in the afternoon, for the first time, a procession with a final benediction for the sick with the Blessed Sacrament took place. It was a priest who proposed this devotional practice, and from that time, it has never been abandoned. When on that August 22 of 1888, the sick were blessed in front of the grotto of the Apparitions with the Blessed Sacrament, Pierre Delanoy, who had been suffering for many years from ataxia (an illness which impedes the coordination of voluntary motion, and leads to certain death), was instantly cured just as the Monstrance passed him. It was the first miracle ever to take place at Lourdes. From that date onward, the Eucharistic procession for the sick has never been interrupted. Ever since that time, the sick who make their way to Lourdes on pilgrimage are blessed with the Blessed Sacrament, and the miraculous healings which have been confirmed as the Blessed Sacrament passed by have been countless. The Shrine of Lourdes is a shining example of faith in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

The Angel of Peace, Fatima
PORTUGAL, 1916



The Angel appeared three times to the shepherd children at Fatima to prepare them for future apparitions of the Blessed Virgin and to raise them to the supernatural state with Holy Communion. During the third apparition, the Angel gave Holy Communion to Lucia with a Host from which some drops of Blood fell and were collected in a chalice. Francisco and Jacinta, who had not yet made their First Communion, were instead given Communion with the contents of the chalice. In this apparition, the Angel said to them: "Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, and which has endured such outrage from ungrateful men. Make reparation for their offenses and in this way you will console your God."

First Apparition of the Angel

"We began to see, at a certain distance, a light that was whiter than snow, with the shining countenance of a young man, more resplendent than a crystal penetrated by the... as he drew near, we began to discern his features: a young man of 14 or 15 years, with great beauty. We were surprised and almost in rapture. We did not say a word. As he approached us, he said 'Do not be afraid. I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me.' And kneeling on the ground, he bowed his forehead to the earth. Moved by a supernatural power, we did the same and repeated the words we heard him pronounce: 'My God! I believe, I adore, I trust and I love Thee. I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not trust, and do not love Thee.' 'Pray in this way. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary will listen to the voice of your pleading.' And the Angel disappeared. The supernatural atmosphere which surrounded us was so intense that we hardly took notice of our own very existence for a long period of time..."

Second Apparition of the Angel

"The Angel said to us: 'What are you doing? Pray! Pray more! The Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary have merciful designs regarding you. Offer prayers and sacrifices constantly to the Most High.' 'How should we make these sacrifices,' I asked. 'In every way possible, offer to God in sacrifice an act of reparation for sins by which He is offended and an act of supplication for the conversion of sinners. In this way, you will draw peace down upon your country. I am your Guardian Angel, the Angel of Portugal. Above all, accept and endure with humility the suffering which the Lord sends you.' And the Angel disappeared...These words of the Angel were engraved on our spirit, like a light which made us comprehend who God was: how He loved us and wished to be loved; the value of sacrifice, and how it was pleasing to Him; and how, through sacrifice, He would bring about the conversion of sinners."

The Third Apparition of the Angel

"We saw the Angel with a chalice in his left hand and a Host suspended above it, from which some drops of Blood fell into the chalice. Leaving the chalice and the Host in mid-air, the Angel prostrated himself on the ground next to us and repeated three times the prayer: 'Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences by which He is offended. Through the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.' Then, getting up, the Angel again took the chalice and the Host into His hands, and then gave the Host to me, and then gave the contents of the chalice to Jacinta and Francisco to drink, saying at the same time: 'Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, which has endured such outrage from ungrateful men. Make reparation for their offenses and so console your God'...and the Angel disappeared."