



## Eucharistic Miracle Avignon, France 1433

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In Avignon, France, there is a church named the Church of the Holy Cross which is cared for by a group of priests called the Gray Penitents of the Franciscan Order. Starting in the year 1230, about 790 years ago, the Blessed Sacrament was perpetually adored which means that Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament was exposed in the Monstrance every day of the week and every hour of the day for people to come pray before Him. That is 24 hours a day, 168 hours every week and 8,736 hours each year! After 200 years of perpetual adoration, a Eucharistic miracle occurred.

There is a river that passes through the town of Avignon. Every few years this river overflowed and flooded the houses, farms, and the rest of the surrounding area. In the year 1433<sup>1</sup>, about 590 years ago, the town had many days of hard rain and the river overflowed again. However, this time a horrible flood occurred, much, much worse than previous years.

In previous floods, the church would have had a layer of water on the floor, but not too deep. However, due to all the rain and flooding, the priests, felt sure that their church must have water over even the altar where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed. Two of the priest, including the priest in charge, rowed by boat through the flood to try to save the Blessed Sacrament.

When the priest rowed up to the church, the flood waters reached half way up the tall church door. You can imagine the worry the priests felt for Jesus in the Blessed

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<sup>1</sup> November 30, 1433  
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Sacrament. As they opened up the church door, imagine **now** their shock to see almost six feet of water on either side of the main aisle leading up to the altar. The water was parted down the middle of the church like Moses and the Red Sea. The altar, monstrance, and the Eucharist were **completely** dry!

News of the miracle spread quickly through the town. Hundreds of people braved the flooding to witness the miracle of water as tall as a grown man parted to keep the Holy Eucharist dry. The people sang songs of thanksgiving and praise. God protected Jesus and showed favor on a community that had been loving Him for 200 years.