



Eucharistic Miracle Stories

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Jesus uses Eucharistic Miracles to show that His Body and Blood are truly in this sacrament.¹ He uses these Miracles to help our faith grow stronger, to show love for those who believe, and to remind those who doubt He is really present in the Eucharist.

There are many, many Eucharistic Miracle stories.

Yet even without miracles, trusting our faith, we recognize Jesus in the Eucharist.

Eucharistic Miracle: Regensburg, Germany 1257

In Germany, a priest celebrating Mass started the consecration where the bread and wine change into the Body and Blood of Jesus. However, this particular priest doubted if Jesus was really present in the Eucharist. Perhaps, he thought that the bread and wine might just represent Jesus.

Due to his disbelief, the priest paused before he held the chalice of Jesus Blood up. Due to this pause of doubt, a wondrous event occurred. The body of Jesus on the large altar crucifix came alive. One of Jesus' arms came free from the cross, stretched towards the priest, and removed the chalice from the priest's hands. Jesus held the chalice up for the people to adore.

¹ Summa Theologiae, Third Part (Tertia Pars), Question 76. The way in which Christ is in this sacrament

The priest immediately understood that Jesus, as man and as God, is absolutely present in the Consecrated Wine and Bread. His doubts disappeared. The priest knelt and sincerely apologized for his doubt. Jesus returned the chalice to him as a way to show the priest forgiveness. There is no sin too big that Jesus won't forgive if you truly repent.

This crucifix remains to this day in the church for people to see. ²

² Eucharistic Miracle: Regensburg, Germany 1257

Eucharistic Miracle: Krakow, Poland 1345

Many, many years ago, some robber broke into a small village church near Krakow. The robbers thought they found a magnificent treasure inside the church, a golden monstrance. Quickly grabbing the monstrance, which contained several consecrated Hosts, the robbers ran off.

Later, when the robbers slowed down to closely look at their treasure, they realized the monstrance was only gold in color, but not made of real gold. Surely, the robbers were disappointed. The robbers decided they no longer wanted the monstrance and tossed it with the consecrated Hosts into tall grass in the soggy marsh land outside the village.

The church's priests worried that they would be unable to find the monstrance and Hosts. Of course, to have the monstrance back would be nice, but they so badly wanted to find the Hosts so Jesus would not be mistreated. They knew the true treasure was really the Blessed Hosts, not the golden colored monstrance.

When the dark of night came, some villagers saw bright flashes of light unlike anything they had ever seen before coming from the marsh land. Electricity had not been invented yet and a candle or a fire was unable to produce such a light. The mysterious, flickering may have even looked like a sunbeam coming from the ground in the dark marsh.

The villagers hurried to tell the Bishop of Krakow about the mysterious light. The bishop asked that everyone fast and pray for three days. The mysterious light was seen for those three nights the people fasted.

On the third day, the bishop led a line of people into the marshland to find the location of the light. To the bishop's and villagers' amazement, they found the monstrance with the Hosts unbroken. The Sacred Hosts . . . Jesus . . . was sending off the miraculous flashes of light. Without the amazing light, the villagers' most precious treasure, our most precious treasure, Jesus, might not have been found.

Eucharistic Miracle: Alboraya-Almacera, Spain 1348

Many years ago in Spain, a priest rode his donkey to bring Communion to several sick church members. As the priest and donkey crossed a river to reach their destination, the priest and the ciborium, which is a sacred container holding the Hosts, toppled over into the water. The priest barely made it out of the swiftly moving river. The ciborium and Hosts vanished into the water. The priest felt deep sadness that the Consecrated Host, the real Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus had disappeared. His job protecting the Blessed Hosts had been unsuccessful.

While the priest stood on the edge of the river, he heard fishermen shouting to him. They witnessed with astonishment three fish holding the lost Hosts in their mouths. Hurrying to the church, the priest returned with another ciborium. He approached the three fish that were holding the Blessed Host above the water. As the priest held the ciborium out, he prayed deeply and the fish placed the Host into it one by one and then swam away.

At that point, the priest realized a crowd had gathered and many had observed this incredible miracle.

The fish recognized Jesus in the Host and rescued Him from the water. Amazing! If fish, creatures without a soul, know Jesus in the Host, think about how much you, a beloved child of God, should know and appreciate Jesus' Real Presence in the Host. Since Jesus humbly appears as a piece of bread, something so small and normal, we sometimes forget we should feel absolute awe in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Host, our God who stays with us forever. . . . to be completely thrilled!

Eucharistic Miracle: Avignon, France 1433

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 1433³, 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 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.

³ November 30, 1433

Eucharistic Miracle: Sienna, Italy 1730

Almost three hundred years ago, people were treating religious celebrations as a reason to have a party and to get a day off of work or school and not so much about the religious part of the celebration. For example, on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, people didn't really think about Mary being taken up body and soul into heaven after she died. Instead, they thought about the parades, foods, and being with friends.

This was the same with Mass, people went to Mass on Sundays out of habit or just to see friends not because they loved God or wanted to be made stronger and holier by the Eucharist. Mass was just the thing to do.

This story begins on the day prior to the Feast of the Assumption of Mary in 1730. All the priests of the town were in one of the many churches in town making celebration plans. That meant that the chapel in the Church of St. Francis did not have the watchful eyes of a priest protecting it. Thieves broke into the chapel and picked the lock on the tabernacle.

Back to the story, the thieves stole the golden ciborium, the container, holding 351 consecrated hosts, the bread that was already fully Jesus.

The priest of St Francis did not discover the theft until the next morning during Mass when he opened the tabernacle to distribute the Hosts during Communion. **Jesus missing!**

A little while later in the day, a parishioner found the lid to the ciborium in the street outside the church. This made the priests worried that someone had sacrilegied Jesus, which means to do bad things to the Eucharist to disrespect Jesus.

The parishioners and priest were so sorrowful and worried that the party part of the feast was canceled. The archbishop ordered public prayers of reparation, which are prayers to apologize to Jesus. At the same time, the police hunted for the thieves.

For three days, just like the three days from Good Friday to Easter Sunday, the people prayed to make things right with God and that the Hosts would be found.

On the third day, a parishioner in a different church ⁴ noticed something white sticking up from the box that collected money for the poor. The parishioner hurried to tell the church priest who in turn hurried to tell the archbishop. As soon as the archbishop's

⁴ Church of St. Mary of Provenzano

representative arrived, he and several priests opened the collection box and found all 351 consecrated hosts. But, since the box wasn't opened very often, the hosts were covered in cobwebs and dirt.

The priests cleaned the Hosts as best as they could. The archbishop then led a solemn procession, which is a little bit like a serious, holy parade, back to the Church of St. Francis where the town people adored all 351 Hosts in the same way we are loving the one Host in front of us today.

The hosts were saved and not eaten probably because they had been so dirty. But you cannot just throw Jesus away. The Hosts were placed in a safe spot so that nature could break them down. The priests eventually realized that the Host were miraculous because they did not become hard, turn a yucky color, or mold in the way in which nature would normally do with an uneaten host.⁵

Quite the opposite happened, the hosts showed no sign of breakdown, decay, or mold. The Hosts stayed as fresh as the day they were baked and even smelled very nice. **Today** the hosts still remain as fresh as the day they were made, almost 300 hundred years ago. It is one of the longest on-going miracles in the world. This miracle created a new heart for the people of Sienna which produced a deep love, respect, and honor for Jesus in the Eucharist.

⁵ "continuing miracle of preservation"

Eucharistic Miracle: Bordeaux, France 1822

In France two hundred years ago, a priest, Abbot Delort, presided over Eucharistic Adoration at a chapel for nuns, called the Holy Family of Bordeaux. After Abbot Delort exposed the Blessed Sacrament, the priest in his own words wrote, I "saw our Saviour, head, chest, and arms, in the middle of the circle that served Him as a frame like a painting, but with this difference, that the painting looked alive. His figure was . . . a young man about thirty years old, extraordinarily beautiful. He was dressed with a dark red scarf draped over His shoulder and chest." ⁶

Abbot Delort called the altar server over who confirmed that he too could see Jesus in the Host. In fact, many people saw this miracle which lasted more than twenty minutes. Jesus' head moved from side to side, He smiled at the people in the church, and raised His right hand in blessing. One person heard Jesus say, "I am He Who Is."

At the end, Abbot Delort raised the monstrance and gave Benediction to those at the Holy Hour. Remember that during Benediction, the priest holds the monstrance with the Consecrated Host up with hands covered by the humeral veil. Since the priest's hands do not touch the monstrance, we believe and **know** that Benediction is a special blessing directly from Jesus. During this particular Benediction in France, the priest gave the blessing with "our Divine Saviour" ⁷ visible in the Host the whole time. Imagine, picture with your mind, that incredibly rare blessing the members received, a blessing from Jesus while actually seeing Jesus in the Host.

The priest told the congregation that Jesus showed himself "in order to make us remember that He is really with us and to ask you to love Him always, and more so than before, and to practice the virtues since He gave **you** such grace." ⁸

The Mother Superior who was present said, "Although we do not always see Him with the eyes of the body, He did give me the grace to see Him." ^{9 10}

⁶ Abbot Delort's documentation of the miracle. Feb 5, 1822

⁷ Abbot Delort's documentation of the miracle. Feb 5, 1822

⁸ Abbot Delort's documentation of the miracle. Feb 5, 1822, emphasis added

⁹ Mère Trinité, Supérieure de la Maison de Lorette. Feb 6, 1822

¹⁰ Eucharistic Miracle: Bordeaux, France 1822