

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE OF LARCIANO IN ITALY

By Michael Sher

Two thousand years have passed since Christ first instituted the holy Eucharist at the Last Supper. From time to time through the centuries, God has deigned to perform visible miracles in this sacrament of love to help the doubting Thomases of the world. The Eucharistic Miracle of Larciano is no exception.

This miracle took place during the eighth century when a Basilian monk was saying Mass in the little town of Larciano. Moments after the consecration, the priest, who had doubted the Real Presence of our Lord in the Eucharist, found himself holding a host that had changed into flesh. The wine, on the altar, had changed into blood, clotted up and split into five pieces of different shapes and sizes. After realizing the extraordinary miracles, the humbled priest raised his head and revealed the event to his parishioners.

Immediately, the news spread all over town. The faithful came from everywhere to behold the holy miracle. Twelve centuries later, the sacred relics have remained incorrupt. The flesh has retained the dimensions of the original host, and the blood has remained coagulated.

The Eucharistic Miracle of Larciano has been subjected to numerous scientific tests over the centuries. The latest examination, conducted in 1970 to 1971, has confirmed that "the flesh is real flesh and the blood is real blood." Again proving that science does not remove mystery but comes to affirm it. As the great Catholic scientist Louis Pasteur once said, "A Little bit of science averts people from God, a lot of it, takes us back to Him."

The Eucharistic Miracle of Larciano is one of the most moving sights for a pilgrim. The miracle defies all human explanation, and here in Larciano the pilgrim can find greater meaning and clarity in the Lord's solemn works, "Take and eat, for this is my body."



The blood is real blood, type AB.



We can still see the Eucharistic Miracle of Larciano after 1200 years.



The incorrupt flesh is from muscular heart tissue.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE OF LARCIANO

Jesus, living bread descended from heaven, how great is your goodness! To perpetuate faith in your Real Presence in the Eucharist, you deigned in an unheard-of miracle to change the consecrated species of bread and wine into flesh and blood, as they are preserved in the Eucharistic Shrine of Larciano. Deepen our faith in you, sacramental Lord! Grant that in all dangers, worries, and needs we may come, burning with love for you, to seek comfort at your feet, divine prisoner of our tabernacles and inexhaustible source of every grace. Inspire in us hunger and thirst for your Eucharistic food, so that, in obedience to your word, in enjoying this heavenly bread, we may also enjoy true life, forever and ever. Amen.

NB: The Eucharistic Miracle of Larciano is myocardium (muscular heart tissue), blood type AB. There are no preservatives of any kind, yet the species are incorrupt despite 1,200 years of exposure to the atmosphere and to various investigations. —This is an excerpt from "Catholic Shrines of W. Europe"—