

# Eucharistic Miracles

*reflection # 14*

**Bergen, Netherlands (1421)**

Over the centuries since Christ instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper a number of Eucharistic marvels have occurred. One such occurrence happened in **Bergen, Netherlands in 1421**. Bergen lies in northwestern Netherlands not far from the North Sea.

For many months the pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Bergen had serious doubts about Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist. On the Sunday before Pentecost he committed a very sacrilegious act by throwing consecrated hosts from that Mass into one of the canals flowing through that area.

A few months later, some fisherman found the Hosts floating in the water and stained with blood. News of the miraculous recovery of the Hosts spread quickly and pilgrims came to see for themselves. The bishop approved devotion to this miracle. During periods of persecution, devotion was banned, but Catholics kept alive the memory of this miracle. Devotion was fully restored in the twentieth century and to this day numerous public events commemorate this miracle.

Upon his Ascension to heaven Christ promised to be with us until the end of the ages. Although Eucharistic miracles demonstrate his presence in extraordinary ways, **every Eucharist makes fully present** the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ under the forms of bread and wine.

For this reason the Church teaches the Eucharist to be *'the source and summit'* of Christian life and living – *calling us to make Sunday Eucharist the privileged center of our weekly lives*.

**May the Lord never find us far from the sacrament of the Eucharist and his life-giving presence.**