

Eucharistic Miracles

reflection # 18

Cimbilla, Spain (1370)

In an attempt to deepen our respect and devotion to the Eucharist we have engaged in telling a number of stories regarding Eucharistic marvels. Today's reflection comes from an event that happened **in Cimbilla** [Sim-BYE-yuh] **Spain in 1370**. Cimbilla is a small village in central Spain.

These were desperate times between warring factions within Spain itself and threats from afar by Turkish Muslims. In this setting the local priest, Fr. Tommaso, had numerous doubts about Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist. On September 12th as he was celebrating Mass and pronounced the words of consecration, the host began to bleed and blood dropped on a linen altar cloth called the corporal. The penitent priest began to weep from remorse. Upon seeing their priest weep the faithful looked at the altar and saw the miracle.

The local bishop came immediately and placed the host and blood-stained corporal in the church's tabernacle for people to worship. For his part and in a response of penitence Fr. Tommaso became a hermit and dedicated the remainder of his life to prayer and penance.

By 1594 a special chapel was built in the transept of the church of the Purification of Our Lady in Cimbilla. That chapel holds the reliquary crafted to host the blood-stained corporal. Over the years a number of miracles from the quelling of storms to the freeing of people from evil spirits have been attributed to this Eucharistic miracle.

To this day an annual Eucharistic procession is held on September 12th honoring the anniversary of this miracle along with the exposition of the blood-stained corporal.

Christ seems to understand our need to be reminded of the Truth he spoke over the bread and wine of the Last Supper. Eucharistic miracles remind us that he is ever-present in time and history as the food of eternal life. He is as present today on this altar and in this tabernacle as he was 654 years ago and still is in Cimbilla, Spain.

Such is the radiant mystery of the Eucharist.