

Eucharistic Miracles

reflection # 19

Canosio, Italy (1630)

In our ongoing reflections on Eucharistic miracles, today we find ourselves at **Canosio, Italy in 1630**. Canosio is a small village in northwestern Italy near the French border.

In 1630 a day after the feast of Corpus Christi the local river flooded because of torrential rains. The flood waters were so violent that massive rocks were dislodged from mountain sides and threatened the valley and the city of Canosio.

The local priest, Fr. Antonio Reinardi, had a deep belief in the Eucharist and assembled the townspeople by ringing the church bells. He exhorted the people to pray the Lord would save their village. He vowed that if the village was spared, the townspeople would celebrate **in perpetuity** an annual feast of Corpus Christi.

With that he placed the Blessed Sacrament into the church's monstrance and he and the people processed towards the flood waters with the people reciting Psalm 51 imploring God's mercy and to create clean hearts in those who have sinned. Fr. Reinardi blessed the flood waters with the Blessed Sacrament. The rain stopped. The flood waters peaked and then receded to their normal levels.

There were many conversions among those who witnessed this event. Many, who had been indifferent in their faith, were deeply revived. To this day the vow made in 1630 to perpetually celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi is still being honored.

Once again the Lord's presence in the Eucharist has been made known to his people. On every altar of every Catholic Church when Mass is celebrated, the Lord becomes present and ready to feed his people with divine life. **His love knows no bounds**. As he protected the people of Canosio such is his love for us.

At all times may the gift and mystery of the Eucharist be the centerpiece of our spiritual lives.