

Eucharistic Miracle

reflection # 23

Augsburg, Germany (1194)

This will be the last Eucharistic miracle reflection for this series of post Communion meditations. These 23 Eucharistic meditations have been posted on the church walls, but will be taken down at the end of this month.

Today's reflection occurred in **Augsburg, Germany in 1194**. Augsburg is located in southern Germany a little northwest of Munich.

In the late 1100s many churches did not have tabernacles for adoration. That only came to pass in the late 1200s.

In 1194 a very devout woman in Augsburg had a deep devotion to the Mass. One day upon receiving Communion, and without being noticed, she put the host in her handkerchief and took it to her home for the purpose of adoration. She placed the host in a wax container and put the container in her cupboard.

After five years and a very remorseful heart she confessed her action to the local priest. The priest had the woman bring the host to the church. Upon opening the wax container, the priest found the host had transformed into bleeding flesh and seemingly had divided into two parts connected by threads of flesh. The local bishop declared this to be a miracle and placed the host in crystal monstrance for public worship. In 1200 a local official crafted a special vessel for the host, which remains to this day in Augsburg.

Over the years this miracle host has had to be protected, and at times be put in hiding, from numerous armies and unbelievers. Since 1945 this host is back at Holy Cross Church in Augsburg for public adoration. It has been subjected to various studies, which all confirm this to be human blood.

At the Last Supper Jesus promised never to leave us orphans, but to be with us until the end of the ages. **On this side of heaven, there is no greater presence of Christ than his Real Presence in the Eucharist.** Eucharistic miracles are meant to bolster our faith and draw us more deeply into the splendor of Eucharistic faith and the Real Presence of Christ's Body and Blood being poured out for the forgiveness of sins and given to us in Communion as the food of eternal life.

Such is the gift and the glory of the Eucharist.