

Eucharistic Miracle of SANTAREM

PORTUGAL, 1247



The Eucharistic Miracle of Santarem, together with that of Lanciano, is considered among the most important. Numerous studies and canonical analysis were carried out on the relics. The Host changed into bleeding Flesh and Blood flowed out of it. Both relics are preserved to this day in the Church of St. Stephen in Santarem.



Interior of the Shrine of the Most Holy Miracle



Church of the Most Holy Miracle, Santarem



House where the miracle occurred



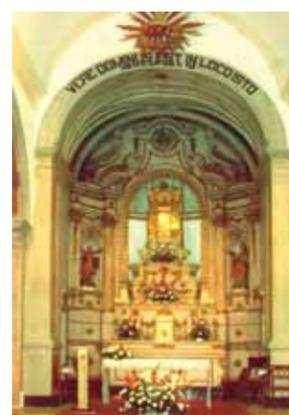
Altar where the relic of the miracle is preserved



Cruet containing the Blood from the Host



Pedro Crasbeeck, Print of 1612 that shows exactly the glass ampulla in which was miraculously found the Host of the miracle



Interior of the church



Relic of the miraculous Host

Some Popes granted plenary indulgences to this Eucharistic miracle: Pius IV, St. Pius V, Pius VI, and Pope Gregory XIV. Still today, in the Church of St. Stephen of Santarem, it is possible to admire these precious relics.

According to the date recorded in the document commissioned by King Alfonso IV in 1346, on February 16, 1266, in Santarem, a young woman overcome with jealousy for her husband, consulted a sorceress who told her to go to the church and steal a consecrated Host to use for a love potion. The woman stole the Host and hid it in a linen cloth that immediately became stained with Blood. Frightened by this, she ran home and opened the kerchief to see what had happened. To her amazement, she saw that the Blood was gushing from the Host. The confused woman

stored the Particle in a drawer in her bedroom. That night the drawer began to emit brilliant rays of light which illuminated the room as if it were daytime. The husband, also aware of the strange phenomenon questioned his wife, who was obligated to tell him everything.

The next day, the couple informed the pastor, who went to the home to remove the Host and return it to the church of St. Stephen in solemn procession, accompanied by many religious and lay people. The Host bled for three consecutive days. It was then placed in a beautiful reliquary made of beeswax. In 1340 another miracle occurred. When the priest opened the tabernacle, he found the beeswax vase broken into many pieces: in its place was a crystal vase containing the Blood mixed with

the wax. The Sacred Host is now preserved in an 18th century Eucharistic throne, above the main altar. The Church of St. Stephen is now known as the Shrine of the Holy Miracle. Throughout the centuries, on various occasions, the Host gave new emissions of Blood and in some cases various images of our Lord were seen in it. Among the witness of this prodigy is also St. Francis Xavier, the apostle of the Indies, who visited the shrine before going on the missions. Every year, since the miracle occurred, on the second Sunday of April, the precious relic is processed from the home of the couple to the Church of St. Stephen. The couple's home became a chapel in the year 1684.

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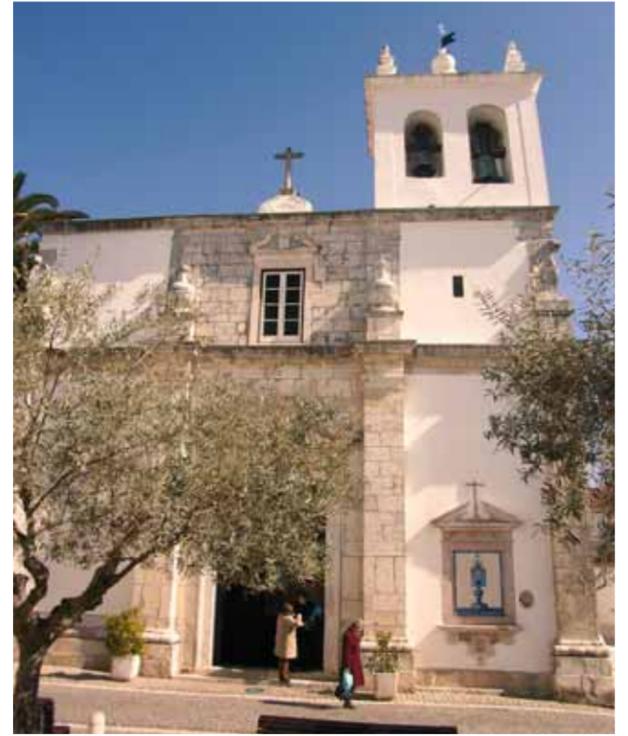
The woman who went to the witch who counseled her to steal a consecrated Host



The woman takes communion and steals the Host without realizing it



The husband of the woman discovers the theft noticing that rays of light were emanating from the kitchen cupboard. He opened the cupboard and saw a bloody Host which had changed into Flesh



Commemorative medallion of the Miracle of Santarém



The home of the sacrilegious woman who was converted in the small chapel, Santarém



Pedro Crasbeeck, Print of 1612 that shows exactly the glass ampulla in which was miraculously found the Host of the miracle



The local authorities rush to return the miraculous Host to the church

