

# MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST

## ACROSS THE WORLD



A Selection of the Miracles of the Eucharist which are on display at Holy Name of Mary Church from the International Exhibit devised by Blessed Carlo Acutis.

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# International Exhibition

## MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST ACROSS THE WORLD

Devised and planned by Carlo Acutis

GOD'S SERVANT CARLOS ACUTIS

(London, 3 May 1991 – Milan, 11 October 2006)

«**My life plan is to always be connected to Jesus**». With these few words, Carlo Acutis, who died of leukaemia when he was only fifteen years old, outlined the distinctive feature of his brief existence: living with Jesus, for Jesus and in Jesus<sup>1</sup>. To quote Carlo's own words: **“Our destination must be what is infinite, not what is finite. Infinity is our homeland. We have been expected in Heaven since time immemorial”**. He also said: **“All are born with their own originality, but many die as photocopies”**.



To move towards this destination and to not “die as photocopies”, Carlo said that our compass must be the Word of God, against which we must constantly measure ourselves. Extremely special means are required to reach such a lofty destination: the sacraments and prayer. In particular, Carlo placed the Sacrament of the Eucharist at the heart of his own life, which he called **“my highway to heaven”**. After receiving his first communion at the age of seven, Carlo did not miss daily attendance at mass or reciting the rosary. He would always try to practise Eucharistic Devotion, convinced that **“by standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy”** Carlo would often ask himself why we see mile-long queues of people waiting for hours to go to a rock concert or a film, but we never see the same queues in front of the Eucharistic Christ. He would say that people do not realise what they are missing, otherwise churches would be so full that you would not be able to get into them. In the Blessed Sacrament – he would repeat passionately – Christ is present in the same way he was 2000 years ago in the time of the Apostles; that back then, people had to travel constantly to see him, while we are much luckier today because we can

find him in any church close to our homes. In his words, **“Jerusalem is right on our doorstep”**. From his days as a good catechist onwards, he would try his best to find new ways to help others to strengthen their own faith. For this reason, he left us his exhibitions as a legacy, among which the Miracles of the Eucharist stand out. In 2002, while visiting the Meeting Rimini exhibition, Carlo decided to stage an exhibition on the Miracles of the Eucharist recognised by the Church. This demanding work also involved his family for almost two and a half years. The spiritual effects brought about by this exhibition could not have been predicted before it opened. We can confirm that the exhibition has now been hosted on all five continents. Many parishes also asked that the material be collected in a catalogue, which was accompanied by an eminent preface written by Card. Angelo Comastri, Archpriest of the Papal Basilica of the Vatican and Vicar General to his Holiness for the Vatican City, and by His Excellency Mons. Raffaello Martinelli, then Head of the Catechetical Office of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. From that moment on, if we may say so given the results, the exhibition “has performed miracles”. In the United States alone,

thanks to assistance from the *Knights of Columbus*, *The Cardinal Newman Society* and *The Real Presence Association and Education*, with the support of Card. Edmond Burke, it has been hosted in thousands of parishes and more than 100 universities. It has also been promoted by several Episcopal Conferences, including those of the Philippines, Argentina and Vietnam, etc. It has even travelled to China and Indonesia. Important basilicas and sanctuaries have hosted Carlo's exhibition, including the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima on the occasion of the centenary of Francisco Marto.

It is possible to take a virtual visit of the sites where these miracles took place and download the panels [www.carloacutis.com](http://www.carloacutis.com) and [www.miracolieucaristici.org](http://www.miracolieucaristici.org). The exhibition is free and can be requested by sending an email to: [info@carloacutis.com](mailto:info@carloacutis.com)

Or by writing to:  
**Associazione Amici di Carlo Acutis**  
**Via Ariosto 21 – 20145 Milano**  
**Tel: +39 339 6340122**

1. (His Excellency Card. Angelo Comastri, *Preface* to N. Gori, *Carlo Acutis, Un giovane per i giovani*)

# International Exhibition

## MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST ACROSS THE WORLD

### What is a Miracle of the Eucharist?

**M**iracles of the Eucharist are miraculous divine interventions that are aimed at confirming faith in the real presence of the body and blood of the Lord in the Eucharist. We are familiar with the Catholic doctrine relating to this real presence; with the Words of Consecration, “this is my body” and “this is my blood,” the substance of the bread becomes the body of Christ and the substance of the wine becomes his blood. This awe-inspiring change is known as transubstantiation, in other words, the transition of the substance. Only the appearances, or species, of the bread and wine remain; these are known by the philosophical term “accidents”. The dimensions, colour, flavour and odour remain, as do the nutrients, but the substance, or rather the true reality, does not remain because it has become the body and blood of Christ. Transubstantiation can in no way be experienced by the senses; faith alone makes certain of this miraculous change.

*Miracles of the Eucharist* are intended to confirm this faith, which is based on the words of Christ, according to which what seems like bread is no longer bread, and what seems like wine is no longer wine. Flesh and blood, or one or the other, appear in Miracles of the Eucharist, depending on the case. The aim of miracles such as these is to demonstrate that we should not look at external appearances (bread and wine), but at the substance, at the true reality of things, which is flesh and blood. Medieval theologians scrutinised the issue of Miracles of the Eucharist (which were very common at that time), and interpreted them in a variety of different ways. The most-well founded and reasoned of these seems to be that of the supreme “Doctor of the Eucharist” Saint Thomas Aquinas (cf. Summa Theologica III, q. 76, a. 8). He says that the body and blood that appear after the miracle are a result of the transformation of the Eucharistic species, or rather of the accidents, and that they do not affect the real substance of the body and blood of Christ. The species of the bread and wine are miraculously changed into species of flesh and blood, but the real body and real blood of Christ are



not those that appear. They are those that, even before the miracle, were hidden beneath the species of the bread and wine, and continue to exist hidden beneath the species of the flesh and blood. If, in fact, the flesh and blood that appear were really the flesh and blood of Christ, we would have to say that the risen Christ, who reigns at God's right hand, loses a part of his flesh and blood. We must therefore say that the flesh and blood that appear in the miracles are a type of species, appearance or accident, no more and no less than the species of the bread and wine. The Lord carries out these miracles to give a sign that is easy and visible to all, that the real

body and blood of Christ are present in the Eucharist. But this real body and this real blood are not those that appear, rather they are substantially contained beneath the species or appearances, species or appearances that were those of the bread and wine before the miracle, and after the miracle are those of flesh and blood. Christ is truly and substantially contained beneath the appearances of flesh and blood, just as he was before the miracle. This is why we can worship Christ in his real presence beneath the species of the flesh and blood.

*Father Roberto Coggi O.*

# Eucharistic Miracles of BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA, 1992-1994-1996

The parish of Saint Mary in Buenos Aires has been the protagonist of 3 Eucharistic Miracles that occurred in 1992, 1994 and 1996. Professor Ricardo Castañon Gomez was called by the then Archbishop of Buenos Aires, none other than the current Pope Francis, to analyze the Miracle that occurred on August 15 of 1996.



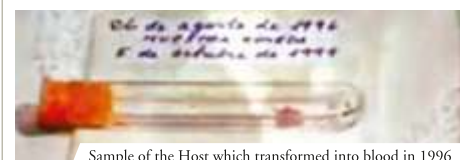
Photo of the sample fragment of Host which bled in 1992



It is possible to receive information on the Miracle every 3rd Friday of the month from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM and every 4th Saturday of the month at 11:00 AM. Parish of Saint Mary, Av. La Plata 286. Buenos Aires.



Professor Castañon Gomez shows one of the fragment samples of the Host which transformed into flesh in 1992



Sample of the Host which transformed into blood in 1996

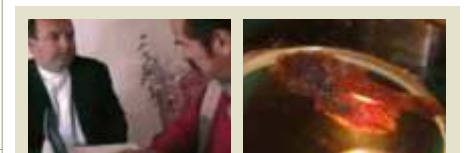


Photo which shows Professor Castañon Gomez as he begins to investigate the miracle and interviews the priests who were direct witnesses of the events. They confirmed that there had been also two pieces of consecrated Host that had bled in May of 1992. They had put them in distilled water, which unfortunately is the worst way of preserving something. They had then asked a lady parishioner who was a chemist, to analyze the bleeding Host. The lady doctor discovered that it was human blood and that this presented the entire leukocyte formula. She also said of being very surprised in having found active white blood cells, which normally are around only in the presence of an infection. The lady doctor however was not able to perform the genetic examination since in those times it was not easy to do.

In 1992, after the Mass of Friday May 1, while preparing the Eucharistic reserve, a Eucharistic minister found some pieces of consecrated Host on the corporal. Following what the Church prescribes to do in these situations, the priest had them put in a vessel of water, which was then placed in the tabernacle to wait for them to dissolve. In the following days, several priests went to check it and they realized that nothing had changed. Seven days later, on Friday, May 8, they opened the tabernacle and saw that the Host fragments had become a reddish color that looked like blood. The following Sunday, May 10, during the two evening Masses, several small drops of blood were noticed on the patens with which the priests distributed Communion. On Sunday, July 24, 1994, during the children's Mass, while the Eucharistic minister took the pix from the tabernacle, he saw a drop of

blood running along its side. On August 15, 1996, during the Mass of the Assumption of the Most Holy Virgin, a consecrated Host, which fell to the ground during the distribution of Communion, had to be placed again in a vessel of water so it would dissolve. A few days later, on August 26, a Eucharistic minister opened the tabernacle and saw that Host had transformed into Blood.

# Eucharistic Miracles of BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA, 1992-1994-1996



This is the account given by Professor Castañon regarding the Eucharistic Miracle that occurred in 1996 still in the Parish of Saint Mary:

“On August 15, 1996, a faithful received the consecrated Host in his hands to take communion but he let it inadvertently fall to the ground and thought not to pick it up because it seemed “dirty” to him. Another person, more pious, noticed what had happened, picked it up and placed it apart immediately informing the priest, Father Alejandro Pezet. The priest, following the directives of the Church in these circumstances, put the Host in a vessel full of water which he placed in the tabernacle awaiting that it would dissolve .”



The then archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Bergoglio, with Doctor Castañon Gomez and some priests of the Parish of Saint Mary.



Tabernacle at the Church of Saint Mary where the Relic of the Miracle is preserved



The relic of the Host that transformed into flesh in 1996 at the Parish of Saint Mary in Buenos Aires



Father Alejandro Pezet, protagonist in the Miracle that occurred in 1996.

“On August 26 the tabernacle was reopened to get the vessel with the fallen Host, and it was observed that it was not dissolved and showed several reddish stains that became larger each day. The priests of the parish went immediately to the Archbishop of Buenos Aires to recount what had happened. It was decided to wait before proceeding with the investigations and in 1999, after the Archbishop was made aware of the fact that I was performing for free these scientific investigations, he entrusted me to take up the case. On October 6, 1999, I went to Buenos Aires and interviewed the 5 priests' witnesses of the event who told me that there had been another consecrated Host which had bled in May of 1992. They had put it in distilled water which is the worst way to preserve something and for this I was very concerned. Everyone knows that when one draws blood it is possible to obtain the leukocyte formula (white blood

cells). In blood there is a variety of white blood cells with specific characteristics. The priests, in the first miracle, had asked one of their lady parishioners who was a chemist to analyze the bleeding Host. She discovered that it was human blood and that it presented the entire leukocyte formula. She was very surprised to observe that the white blood cells were active. The lady doctor could not however do the genetic examination since at that time it was not easy to perform it. I brought a sample from the 2 Hosts which had bled, before the archiepiscopal notary who certified the legality of that action, as requested by the authorities of the Church in Argentina. I would like to point out that before inviting me, the then Archbishop of Buenos Aires had already contacted the Holy See to ask for references about me. These were given by H.E. Most Rev. Gianfranco Girotti, who then was under-secretary at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and direct collaborator of Cardinal

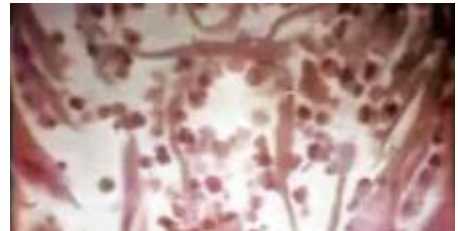
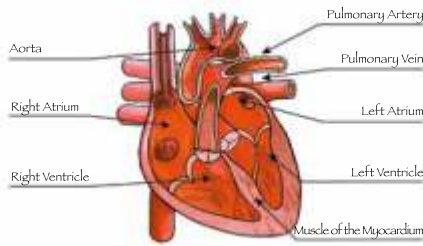
Ratzinger. On October 21 I went to the Forensic Analytical genetics laboratory in San Francisco, which was supposed to perform the analysis of the samples that I had brought. On January 28 of 2000 they found some fragments of human DNA in the samples, it was human blood that contained the human genetic code. In March of 2000 I was informed that also the famous legal histopathologist Dr. Robert Lawrence, one of the top experts in tissues, would participate in this analysis. I feared for the participation of Dr. Robert Lawrence because this would have required some substantial costs which I would have had to bear myself, but I was told that they desired his collaboration because in the samples they had found some substances which resembled human tissues. Dr. Lawrence studied the samples and found in them human skin and white blood cells. In December of 2000 Dr. Lawrence told me that he could have obtained other samples of DNA.”

# The Eucharistic Miracles of BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA, 1992-1994-1996



“In 2001 I went with my samples to Professor Linoli who identified the white blood cells and said to me that most probably the samples corresponded to heart tissue. The results obtained from the samples were similar to those of the studies performed on the Host of the Miracle of Lanciano. In 2002 we sent the sample to Professor John Walker at the University of Sydney in Australia who confirmed that the samples showed muscle cells and intact white blood cells and everyone knows that white blood cells outside our body disintegrate after 15 minutes and in this case 6 years had already passed.”



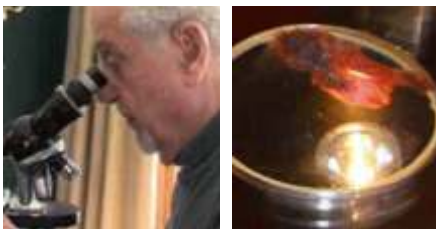
It is important to note that if blood is drawn from a person, after 15 minutes the white blood cells disintegrate. Thus it is absolutely unexplainable from the scientific point of view that in 2005 white blood cells were found in the sample of 1996. This demonstrates that the heart had dynamic activity at the instant in which the samples were collected.



On August 15, 1996, Father Alejandro Pezet picked up from the ground a consecrated Host that he placed in the tabernacle after putting it in a vessel with water to make it dissolve. When on August 26 he reopened the tabernacle he found that it looked covered by a reddish substance.

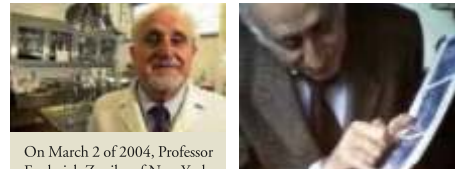


Professor Zugibe confirmed that the sample corresponded to muscle of the heart, of the myocardium, precisely the left ventricle and that the patient to whom it belonged had suffered a lot because it showed some thrombi which indicated that at certain moments he could not breathe for lack of oxygen and every aspiration had been very painful. According to the Professor the patient had been struck at the height of the chest. Moreover the heart showed dynamic activity (alive) at the instant in which it was brought into the laboratory, since intact white blood cells that are transported only by the blood have been found; this confirmed that the sample was pulsating.



When Professor Zugibe became aware that the sample came from a consecrated Host, he exclaimed: "I do not believe it" and he was greatly moved. He himself had shown in a book the case of one of his patients who presented the same lesions of the sample that was brought to him. Doctor Zugibe confirmed that at the moment in which he had been given the sample to analyze, it showed vital activity.

Also Doctor John Walker, professor at the University of Sydney, in Australia, studied the sample without knowing from where it came and concluded that this was a sample of human skin which contained also muscle cells and that intact white blood cells were observed in it (we must underline that the white blood cells disintegrate after 15 minutes outside our body and here 6 years had passed and they had stayed intact).



On March 2 of 2004, Professor Frederick Zugibe of New York, at Columbia University, the preeminent expert in forensic medicine of the heart, received the sample without knowing that it came from a consecrated Host which had bled.

In 2001 Professor Edoardo Linoli in Italy, the same one who analyzed the Miracle of Lanciano, confirmed that this was not skin but probably a fragment of tissue of the human heart.

“In September of 2003 I went again to Professor Robert Lawrence who confirmed that in the light of the new investigations one could conclude that the sample could correspond to the tissue of an inflamed heart. The studies therefore had demonstrated that these tissues were of an inflamed heart: this meant that the person to whom they belonged must have suffered a lot. To clarify our doubts, on March 2, 2004 we went to the greatest expert in cardiac pathologies and forensic medicine of the heart, Professor Frederick Zugibe of New York, at Columbia University. The professor however did not know that the sample I had brought to him came from a consecrated Host. ‘The sample which you brought me - Professor Zugibe said to me - is the muscle of the heart, of the myocardium, it is precisely the left ventricle’ and he confirmed that my patient had suffered a lot. Then I asked him: ‘Doctor, why has my patient suffered a

lot?’ He answered me: ‘Because your patient has some thrombi, at certain moments he could not breathe, oxygen did not reach him, he labored and suffered much because every aspiration was painful. Probably they gave him a blow at the level of the chest. Moreover the heart showed dynamic activity (alive) at the moment when you brought me the sample.’ ‘Why?’ I ask him. ‘Because we found some intact white blood cells and white blood cells are transported only by the blood and thus if white blood cells are here it is because at the moment in which you brought me the sample it was pulsating.’ The professor then asked to whom this sample belonged and when we told him that it came from a consecrated Host he exclaimed: ‘I do not believe it.’ He was greatly moved. The same professor had shown to us in a book the case of one of his patients who showed the same lesions, similar to those of the sample that we had brought to him. The myocardium is the

muscle that gives life to the whole heart and to our body. Rightly a theologian made me note that the fact that it was really the myocardium, was not casual but it concealed a symbolism. The Lord in this miracle wanted to show us his myocardium, which is the muscle that gives life to the whole heart, just as the Eucharist does with the Church. And why the left ventricle? Because from it comes the purified blood and Jesus is the one Who purifies his Church from her sins. ‘Doctor - Professor Zugibe said to me again, at the moment in which you brought me this sample, this heart was alive!’ His report was sent out on March 26, 2005, 5 years and a half after the start of the studies and the conclusions were: ‘They are tissues of the heart, undergoing degenerative changes of the myocardium and these changes are due to the fact that the cells are inflamed and it is the left ventricle of the heart.’” On March 17, 2006 I brought the results to Cardinal Jorge Maria Bergoglio.

# Eucharistic Miracle of TUMACO

COLOMBIA, 1906



The undersea earthquake in 1906 on the Pacific Coast caused enormous damage in many areas. Fr. Bernardino Garcia of the Conception, who at the time was in the City of Panama gave the following testimony regarding the terrible cataclysm that struck the area. “Unexpectedly an enormous wave (we style them tsunamis today) crashed into the port, reached into the market area and destroyed everything. Boats that had been drawn up on shore were picked up hurled long distances causing heavy losses”. The small island of Tumaco was spared by a miracle thanks to the faith of the people and the blessing with the Blessed Sacrament by Fr Gerardo Larrondo.



Tumaco at the time of the 1906 miracle



Beach at Tumaco



**O**n January 31, 1906, on the small island of Tumaco at 10 o'clock in the morning the earth shook violently for almost ten minutes. All the inhabitants of the village ran to the church and begged the pastor, Fr. Gerardo Larrondo, to lead a procession with the Blessed Sacrament. The sea was rising and had already engulfed part of the beach. It had plunged inland a kilometer and a half and a mountainous wall of water was building up and threatening to drown everyone and everything in one gigantic wave.

Fr. Gerardo, consumed the small Hosts in the ciborium and set the large Host aside. He called out to his people: “Let us go, my people, let us go toward the beach and may God have pity on us.” Comforted by the presence of the

Eucharistic Christ they began their march weeping and crying out to God.

Scarcely had Fr. Larrondo reached the beach with the monstrance in hand when he advanced courageously to the water edge and as the wave came rushing in he calmly raised the Sacred Host and traced the sign of the cross. It was a moment of tremendous solemnity.

*The wave hesitated,* paused and backed off. Fr. Larrondo and Fr. Julian alongside him saw what was transpiring, and the people overjoyed cried out “miracle, miracle”. In truth, a force beyond that of nature prevailed, the mighty wall of water that threatened to wipe the village Tumaco off the face of the earth was halted and began to recede and the

sea resumed its normal level. The inhabitants of Tumaco were overcome with overflowing joy at having been saved from death by the favor of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Prayers of fervent thanks poured out.

The Miracle of Tumaco became known across the world and Fr. Larrondo received letters from Europe asking for his prayers.