

International Exhibition

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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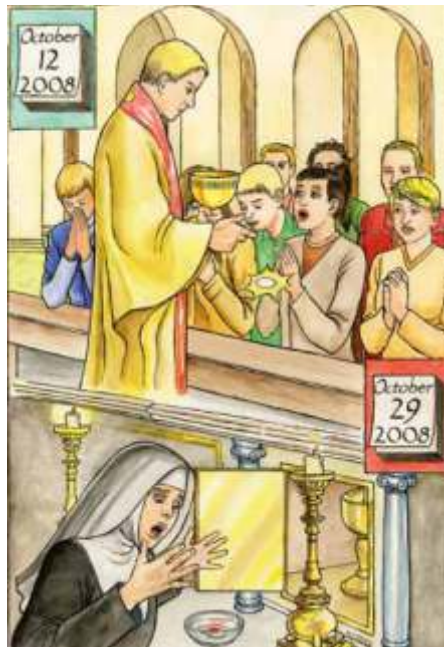
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Eucharistic Miracle of SOKÓŁKA

POLAND, OCTOBER 12, 2008



On October 12, 2008, at the church dedicated to Saint Anthony of Sokółka, the Holy Mass of 8:30 AM is celebrated by a young vicar, Filip Zdrodowski. During Communion, unknowingly the Host falls from the hands of one of the priests. A woman kneeling, ready to receive the Eucharist, makes him notice it. The priest remains paralyzed from fright and believing it was dirty, places it in the vasculum, a small silver vessel which contains the water utilized by priests to wash their fingers after distributing Communion. At the end of the Holy Mass, the sacristan, Sister Julia Dubowska, takes the vasculum with the Host and for increased safety pours it into another vessel which she then locks in the safe where the chalices were kept.



Interior Chapel where the precious Relic is kept



Church dedicated to Saint Anthony in Sokółka



The fragment of the partially dissolved Host with the blood colored substance emanated from its interior is the relic that was placed on the white corporal with an embroidered red cross.



Tabernacle where miraculous Host that fell to the ground was first stored



Safe where the miraculous Host was stored



Photo of Sister Julia Dubowska who first saw the Host transformed into flesh, exactly into tissue of the myocardial muscle.

A week later, on Sunday, October 19, around 8:00 AM, the sister opens the safe and finds the Host almost dissolved but with some strange red clots in the center. She immediately calls the priests to show them what was discovered. The Host was mostly dissolved. Only a very small piece of the consecrated bread was left, tightly interconnected to the substance that appeared on its surface. Actually, part of the Host was joined to that "strange red dot". The pastor of Sokółka then contacted the Metropolitan Curia of Białystok. Archbishop Edward Ozorowski together with the Chancellor of the Curia, priests and professors examined the Host and, astounded, decide to wait for the development of the events and to see what would happen next. On October 29 the vessel containing the Host is brought into the parish chapel and locked in the tabernacle; the next day, on order of the Archbishop, Father Gniezdziejko delicately removes with a small spoon the partially dissolved Host with the blood colored substance on its interior

and places it on a pure white corporal, with a red cross embroidered on its center. The corporal is kept in the case used for keeping and carrying the Hosts, to be then locked again in the tabernacle. Over time the Host "fused" with the corporal and the red "dot" dried. Only then two scientists of global fame and specialists in pathological anatomy at the Medical University of Białystok were consulted. The Metropolitan Curia of Białystok has released this declaration concerning the Eucharistic Miracle that occurred at Sokółka:

1. On October 12, 2008, a consecrated Host fell out of the hands of a priest while he was distributing Holy Communion. He picked it up and placed it in a vessel filled with water, in the tabernacle. After Mass, the vessel containing the host was placed in a safe present in the sacristy.

2. On October 19, 2008, after opening the safe one could clearly see a red stain on the Host that had fallen, which with the naked eye immediately gave the impres-

sion of being a bloodstain.

3. On October 29, 2008, the vessel containing the Host was transferred to the tabernacle of the chapel of the rectory. The next day the Host was removed from the water contained in the vessel and placed on a corporal inside the tabernacle.

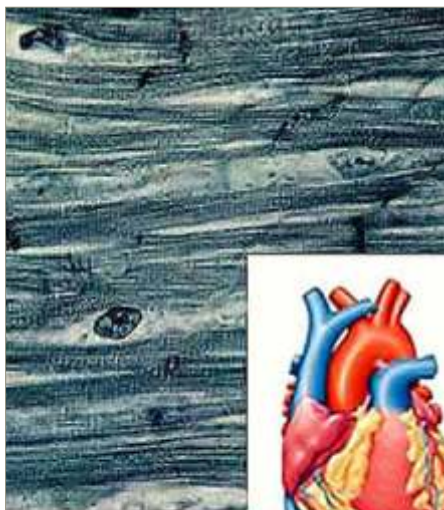
4. On January 7, 2009, the sample of the Host was taken and examined independently by two professionals in histopathology at the University of Medicine of Białystok. They issued a common declaration which states: 'The sample sent for evaluation looks like myocardial tissue. In our opinion, of all the tissues of living organisms this is the one that resembles it the most.'

5. The Commission has noted that the analyzed Host is the same one that has been moved from the sacristy to the tabernacle in the chapel of the rectory. Intervention by a third party has not been found.

6. The case of Sokółka does not contradict the faith of the Church, but rather confirms it."



At the beginning of January of 2009 the Curia of Białystok asked two eminent specialists in pathological anatomy of the Medical University of Białystok - Professor Maria Elżbieta Sobaniec-Łotowska and Professor Stanisław Sulkowski, to analyze the samples of the bloodstained Host. On January 7 - Professor Sobaniec-Łotowska went to Sokółka and took from the corporal a minuscule sample of the mysterious substance present in the Host.



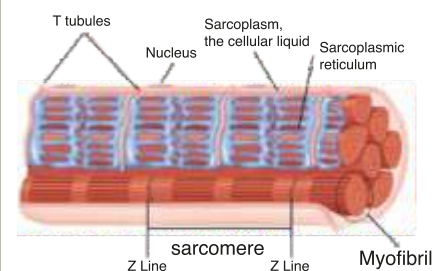
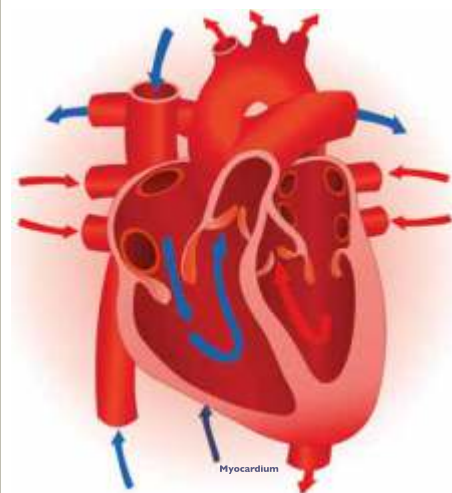
In the side figure, there is an electronic microscope photo and a drawing showing the particular unions between the muscle cells of the myocardium. A peculiar characteristic of the cells of the myocardium is that among them there are some unions, to allow the action potential that makes them contract, to spread from one cell to another, for the entire volume of the muscle. The contraction of a muscle cell is then propagated to all the other cells. A group of cells located in the sinoatrial node is responsible for this "chain contraction". The sinoatrial node is found in the right atrium in proximity to the entrance of the superior vena cava. The action potential that generates the myocardial contraction starts from the sinoatrial node and reaches first the atria and then the ventricles.



Professor Sulkowski



Professor Sobaniec-Łotowska



The professors of the UMB University had underlined that, in the case of the examined Host, in the sample they have found numerous bio-morphological indicators typical of cardiac muscle tissue such as, for example, the phenomenon of segmentation, namely damage to the fibers of the tissue of the cardiac muscle in the section where communicating junctions [structures characteristic of the cardiac muscle] are found, and the phenomenon of fragmentation. Such damages are visible in the form of numerous small lesions. These alterations can be observed only in fibers that were not necrotic, that is alive, and show signs of the fast spasms of the cardiac muscle typical of the extreme phase preceding death. Another important evidence of the fact that the material analyzed corresponded to human cardiac muscle tissue was the central position of the cellular nucleus in the observed fibers, a typical characteristic of cardiac muscle fibers... The two scientists of Białystok deela

red... "Some signs that can correspond to nodes of the contractions have been observed on the section of several fibers. Instead, during the analysis with the electronic microscope, the outlines of the communicating junctions and the thin filaments of the myofibrils were visible". Moreover, the cardiac tissue was joined to the consecrated Host in an inseparable manner. In the report of the examination performed by Professor Sobaniec-Łotowska and Professor Sulkowski, we find written: "The material resulted was sufficient for the examination; it indicates that it is cardiac muscle tissue, or at least the most similar to it among all the living tissues of an organism". "And, something very important, the material analyzed is composed in all respects of cardiac muscular tissue". This affirmation is reported in the "Communication of the Metropolitan Curia of Białystok" of October 14, 2009, concerning the Eucharistic phenomena at Sokółka. The professors discovered also other unexplainable elements. "The

Host remained in water for a long time and it remained in the corporal for an even longer period of time. The tissue that appeared on the Host would therefore have had to undergo the process of autolysis, namely the process of self-destruction by the action of the intracellular enzymes; in the material analyzed there were not however observed traces of these alterations!", the two luminaries declared. Another very interesting event observed consists in that the substance found on the corporal, although slightly changed after being removed from the water (it had simply dried) a couple of years ago, it did not change its appearance despite having been neither stabilized nor preserved at a particular temperature. "This signifies that if the miracle were due to a bacterium, the material would have disintegrated, crumbled and would have changed appearance. Any microbial culture, even placed on the cleanest possible material, after a single week appears completely different" added Professor Sulkowski.

Eucharistic Miracle of SOKÓŁKA

POLAND, OCTOBER 12, 2008

“At first I was convinced that it was a blood clot” - said Professor Sobaniec-Łotowska. But the truth was much more surprising! The two scientists of Białystok, who for their own independent investigations, made use of the most modern optical microscopes and the transmission electronic microscope, have reached the same conclusion (Professor Sulkowski, did not know that the sample which he was examining came from a Host): the sample examined was neither a clot, nor blood ... it was a human cardiac muscle tissue still alive. And, something even more incredible, it was a cardiac muscle with typical indications of the final phase that precedes death.



The Church believes that the words of consecration, through the power of the Holy Spirit, transform the species of bread into the Body of Christ and the species of wine into his Blood. It provides also a call to the ministers of Holy Communion to distribute the Body of Christ with faith and attention and to the faithful - to receive It with reverence.



H.E. Edward Ozorowski
Metropolitan Archbishop
of Białystok



The two scientists have affirmed that it is not possible that someone had placed a fragment of a human body in the tabernacle since the fragments that made up the Host were tightly interconnected to the fibers of the human tissue, and penetrated each other, as if a fragment of “bread” suddenly transformed itself into “body”.



Multitude of people present at the ceremony



The precious Relic is carried in procession



The civil authorities present at the ceremony to celebrate the Miracle of the miraculous Host of Sokółka.

And yet, several people, who not only have never analyzed the material but they had neither seen it with their own eyes, have affirmed that the red color of the Host is due to prodigious, a red pigment produced by the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. “Obviously, this is absurd” affirmed the specialists of Białystok, also because the material observed corresponds to cardiac muscle and not to a bacterium. The scientists of Białystok have analyzed the sample taken in purely scientific terms and not fideistic. Several accusations were even more absurd, like the one put forth by the group of so-called “rationalists” according to whom the tissue analyzed pertained to a murdered man. The professors reacted with a statement in which they expressed “a profound indignation for the fact that the public opinion was led in error by false pseudoscientific hypotheses on the analyzed phenomenon, above all on the part of people who ignore the particulars relative to the analysis, who

have neither access to the material analyzed, nor to the documentation collected, and who often do not even know the analytical techniques applied”. The drafting of the protocol on the part of the two scientists of Białystok required two weeks. When the Curia of Białystok became aware of the incredible results of the analyses, it formed a special Ecclesiastical Commission convened by the Archbishop on March 30, 2009. His task consisted in examining the miracle from the theological point of view and in listening to all who had seen the Host or who had been witnesses of those extraordinary events. The commission also had the task of dispelling any doubt of deception and of ascertaining that no one had furtively substituted the Host in the tabernacle. The representatives of the commission - the distinguished professors of the Seminary of Białystok - interrogated all the witnesses, verifying the sincerity of their testimonies. The work undertaken by the Ecclesiastical Commission has produced the

following statement: “The Host from which the sample was taken for the examination is the same one that has been transferred from the sacristy to the tabernacle of the chapel in the rectory. The intervention of strangers was not observed”. This was moreover categorically excluded also by the two scientists of Białystok. It was not possible that someone had placed a fragment of a human body in the tabernacle. What made one think so? The fragments which composed the Host were tightly interconnected to the fibers of the human tissue; they penetrated each other, as if a fragment of “bread” had suddenly transformed itself in “body”. It is not possible to manipulate an event of this type. No one, absolutely no one, would have been able to do it. “Even the scientists of NASA, who have at their disposal the most modern analytical techniques, would not be able to artificially recreate such a thing”, affirmed Professor Sobaniec-Łotowska, adding that this fact has been for her of particular importance.

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 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.

Eucharistic Miracle of SANTAREM

PORTUGAL, 1247



The woman stole the Host and hid it in a linen cloth that immediately became stained with Blood.



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



Eucharistic Miracle of ALBORAYA-ALMÁCERA

SPAIN, 1348



In 1348, a priest while on his way to visit some sick people in order to bring them Communion, slipped in the waters of a small river that he was crossing and overturned the ciborium which contained some consecrated Hosts. The poor priest, who had by now resigned himself to the loss, heard himself being called by some fishermen a short distance away inviting him to come closer to the shore in order to see several fish with discs in their mouth which appeared to be Hosts. The particles were immediately recovered and brought back to the church in a solemn procession in which the whole village participated.



Hermitage Church in Alboraya



Commemorative sculpture of the Miracle in the city-center



Mosaic on the exterior of the Church



In 1348, in the town of Alboraya-Almácera, a Eucharistic miracle occurred which seemed to recall episodes in the life of Saint Francis that demonstrate how, if men were to fully live in the grace of God, all God's creatures would live in harmony.

A priest, carrying a ciborium containing the Viaticum (sacrament) destined for some sick people, was crossing a river on mule-back when he was suddenly swept off his mount by a rushing wave. The priest tumbled into the water along with his ciborium, which was emptied of its precious content. The Hosts fell out and were being carried away by the current toward the mouth of the river nearby. The priest, barely saving himself, full of remorse, and lamenting what had occurred as he tried to free himself from the mud and the

waters, was approached by some fishermen who were stunned to have witnessed, in the place where the river water flowed into the sea, three fish, each with a little white disc in its mouth, resembling Communion Hosts.

The priest immediately ran to the church and returned to the river bank with another ciborium. He did everything in such a hurry, that he didn't even stop to ask himself if the fishermen's story was believable. Great was his joy when he saw that the three prodigious fish were there, almost completely out of the water, lifting the Hosts, intact, with their mouths, like little trophies. He fell to his knees, and extending his chalice, prayed as he had never prayed before in his entire life; and thus, he saw the fish deposit the Hosts in the chalice,

one after the other, and then dive and slither rapidly back into the water to disappear into the sea. Only at that moment did the priest notice that he was surrounded by a group of men and women who had witnessed the entire scene.

Today it is still possible to consult numerous documents testifying to the miracle. There even exists a small church, with two fish sculpted on the door, built on the site of the miracle, and two paintings reproducing the entire event.

Eucharistic Miracle of

ALBORAYA-ALMÁCERA



SPAIN, 1348

Great was his joy when he saw that the three prodigious fish were there, almost completely out of the water, lifting the Hosts, intact, with their mouths, like little trophies.



Commemorative tablet of the Miracle



Tributary of the Calderona mountain range crossed by the Priest



Interior of the Parish of Almácer



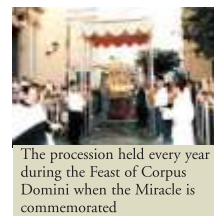
The fish in the Miracle are represented on door of the entrance to the Church



Commemorative Candle of the fish of Alboraya-Almácer



The fish place the Sacred Hosts in the chalice. The present fresco in the interior of the Parish of Almácer



The procession held every year during the Feast of Corpus Domini when the Miracle is commemorated



Detail of the main entrance to the Church constructed in memory of the Miracle

