

## EUCCHARIST AND MIRACLES

A scientist and priest, Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J. reminds in his writings “that a Eucharistic miracle occurs every day, at every Holy Mass across the world, when the substance of bread and wine is transformed into the substance of Jesus’ body and blood.” However, he has also done researched on some extraordinary but scientifically researched phenomena with the Eucharist, sometimes categorized as a “Miracle of the Eucharist.” This can refer to **extraordinary empirical signs of Jesus’ Presence in the Eucharist, such as bleeding hosts or the transmutation of a consecrated host into a piece of cardiac muscle tissue.**

Some of these defined miracles have occurred in our Millennium, since our crossing past the Year 2000. Did you know of them?

They are worth paying some attention to.

*“For us believers what we have seen is something that we have always believed. . . If our Lord is speaking to us by giving us this sign, it certainly needs a response from us.” —Bishop Cyril Mar Baselice, Archbishop of the diocese of Trivandrum on the Eucharistic Miracle at Chirattakonam, India*

Yes, one of them happened in India. It is among four documented times.

1. Legnica, Poland, 2013
2. Chirattakonam, India, 2001
3. Tixtla, Mexico, 2006
4. Sokolka, Poland, 2008

### **A Eucharistic Miracle at Chirattakonam, India, 2001**

Though most Eucharistic miracles through history have to do with a bleeding host, as like the famous one in Lanciano, Italy in the 8<sup>th</sup> century--the one at Chirattakonam, India, was a bit different. On an April morning in 2001, Fr. Johnson Karoor, pastor at St. Mary’s parish there exposed the Blessed Sacrament for adoration. Soon, he noticed three dots on the host and shared what he saw with the people, who also saw the dots. The priest then left for a week and came back to find that the host had developed an image of a human face. To ensure it wasn’t his imagination, he asked an alternate server if he saw anything in the host. “I see the figure of a man,” the altar server replied. After Mass, Fr. Karoor had a local photographer capture the image of the host: You can look at it if you google-search it on the web. It’s fascinating.

### **The Eucharistic Miracle at Legnica: A Bleeding Host**

On Christmas Day 2013, at the Church of St. Hyacinth in Legnica, Poland, a consecrated host fell on the floor. The host was put into a container with water

so that it would dissolve. Instead, it formed red stains. In Feb. 2014, the host was examined by various research institutes, including the Dept. of Forensic Medicine in Szczecin, who stated: *“In the histopathological image, the fragments were found containing the fragmented parts of the cross-striated muscle. It is most similar to the heart muscle.”*

Additionally, and similar to the findings of the Eucharistic miracle of Lanciano, Italy, the research found that the tissue had alterations that would appear during great distress. The bleeding Host in Poland was approved for veneration in April 2016 by its diocesan bishop, who said that it had the hallmarks of a Eucharistic miracle.” Google for more info.

## **The Eucharistic Miracle in Tixtla, Mexico**

In Oct. 2006, a parish in the Chilpancingo-Chilapa diocese held a retreat. During mass, there in Tixtla, two priests and a religious sister were distributing communion when the religious sister saw how The Host that she held had begun to effuse a reddish substance. She showed it to the priests. To later determine the validity of the event, Bishop Alejo Zavala Castro asked Dr. Ricardo Castañón Gómez (who researched a prior Eucharistic miracle in Buenos Aires) and his team to conduct scientific research. In 2013, the research concluded that: *“The reddish substance analyzed corresponds to blood in which there are hemoglobin and DNA of human origin. . . The blood type is AB, similar to the one found in the Host of Lanciano and in the Holy Shroud of Turn.”* It’s interesting, isn’t it?

## **The Eucharistic Miracle in Sokolka, Poland**

Before the bleeding host in Legnica, there was another miracle of the Eucharist in Poland that occurred in the city of Sokolka. The miracle took place in 2008 at the church of St. Anthony. That morning during Mass, a priest accidentally dropped a host while distributing Communion. The Host was then put in a small container of water. The pastor, Fr. Stanislaw Gniedziejko, asked the sacristan, Sister Julia Dubowska of the Congregation of the Eucharistic Sisters, to place the container in a safe in the sacristy. After a week, Sister Julia checked on the host. When she opened the safe, she smelled something like unleavened bread, and the host had a red blood stain on it.

Immediately, Sister Julia and Fr. Gniedziejko told the archbishop of Bialystok, Bishop Edward Ozorowski, about the host. The Bishop had the stained host taken out of the container and placed on a corporal, where it stayed in the tabernacle for three years. During this time, the stained fragment of the host dried out (appearing more like a blood stain or clot), and several studies were commissioned on the host. The studies found that the altered fragment of the host is identical to the myocardial (heart) tissue of a person who is nearing

death. Additionally, the structure of the muscle fibers and that of the bread are interwoven in a way impossible to produce by human means.

I give you these 4 events to think about.

Yet the yearning I am encouraging is not to see a host bleed or show marks on it, but to believe that you are receiving the Precious Lord in the Blessed Eucharist.

We need not have these special signs come among us, for we have enough faith to believe in the Lord and His Sacrament and Presence.

But it is interesting....

It is why we had the Speaker come here in Easter time to share about his findings on the Holy Shroud of Turin. His evidence found in his research has brought lots of life and spirit to his (and his wife's) Catholic presence, two local Catholics living down near Four Corners in Silver Spring.

If anything, then it is encouraging that a spiritual realm is there that always attests to the Reality of our Lord Jesus Christ among us.

In my priesthood, I have had less dramatic but still convincing proofs that something extraordinary was going on with the Eucharist in our midst.

For a European pilgrimage once, I included a church with a Eucharistic miracle in it. We felt we were in the midst of something greatly Other. It was good. It was holy. ###