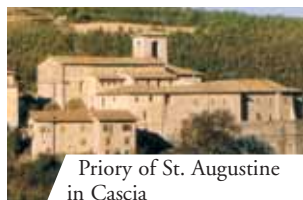


Eucharistic Miracle of CASCIA

ITALY, 1330



In 1330, at Cascia, a gravely ill peasant called the priest to receive Communion. The priest, partly through carelessness and partly through apathy, instead of taking with himself the ciborium to carry the Eucharist to the house of sick man, took a Host and placed it irreverently in a prayer book. When he reached the peasant the priest opened the book and with astonishment saw that the Host was transformed into a clot of blood and the pages of the book were marked with blood.



Priory of St. Augustine in Cascia



Urn containing the body of St. Rita which is preserved intact



Ancient monstrance which contained the relic of the miracle



Upper Basilica with presbytery by the sculptor Manzu



Tabernacle of the Eucharistic miracle



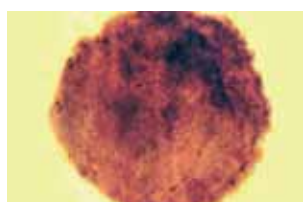
Chapel where the relic is kept in the Lower Basilica



Painting depicting Blessed Simone Fidati



Enlarged reproduction of the face which appeared in the right-hand page



A man's face can clearly be seen



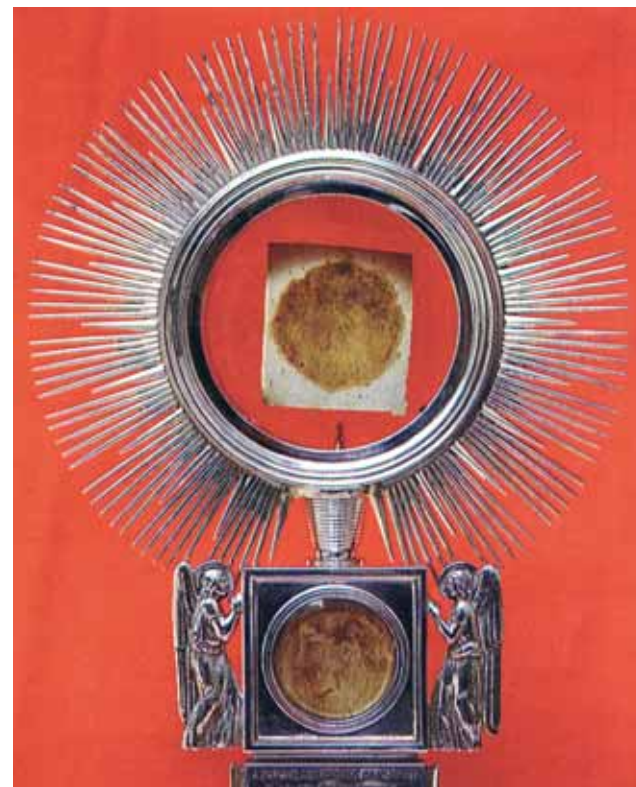
Enlarged reproduction of the face which appeared in the left-hand page



The oldest depiction of St. Rita



Basilica of St. Rita



Relic of the Eucharistic miracle

At Cascia, in the basilica dedicated to St. Rita, is also preserved the relic of the Eucharistic Miracle, which happened near Siena in 1330. A priest was asked to bring Communion to a sick peasant. The priest took a consecrated Host and placed it irreverently in the pages of his breviary and went to the peasant. When he arrived at the house of the sick man, after hearing his confession, he opened the book to take out the Host which he had placed there. To his great surprise he found that the Host was stained with living blood, so much as to mark both pages between which it had been placed. The priest, confused and penitent, went immediately to Siena to the Augustinian Priory to ask the counsel of Fr. Simone Fidati of Cascia, known by all to be a holy man. Fr. Fidati, having heard the story, granted pardon to the priest and

asked to keep the two pages marked by blood. Many of the Popes promoted veneration conceding indulgences.

In the act of recognition of the relic of the Eucharistic miracle of Cascia in 1687, a text was also reported of a very ancient code of the priory of St. Augustine in which are described numerous pieces of information regarding the miracle. Beyond this information, the episode is also mentioned in the Communal Statutes of Cascia of 1387 where it was ordered that "every year on the Feast of Corpus Christi, the authorities, the counsels, and the people of Cascia, should meet in the Church of St. Augustine and follow the priest who should carry the venerable relic of the Most Holy Body of Christ in procession through the city.

In 1930, on the occasion of the sixth centenary of the event, a Eucharistic Congress was celebrated at Cascia for the entire diocese of Norcia; a precious and artistic monstrance was consecrated, and the entire historical documentation of the miracle was published.