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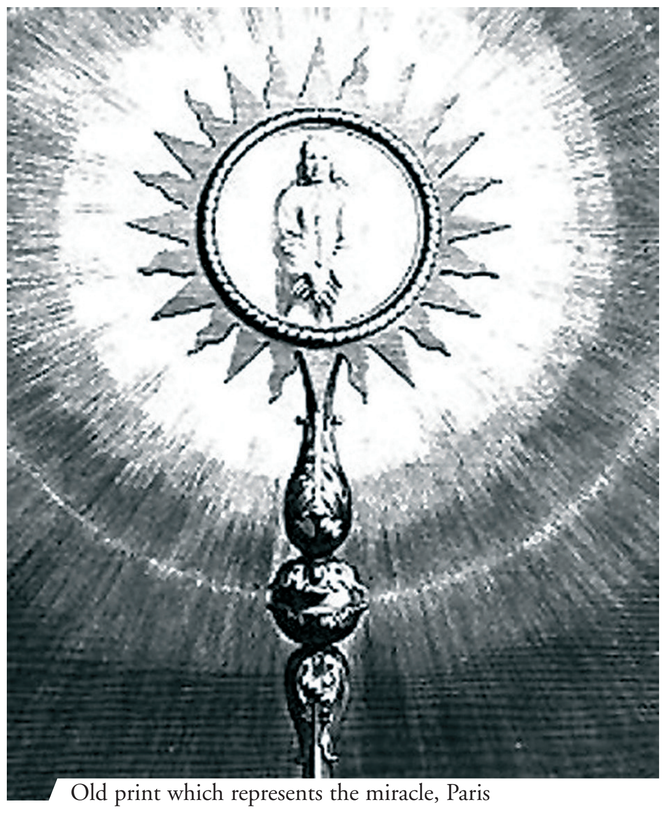
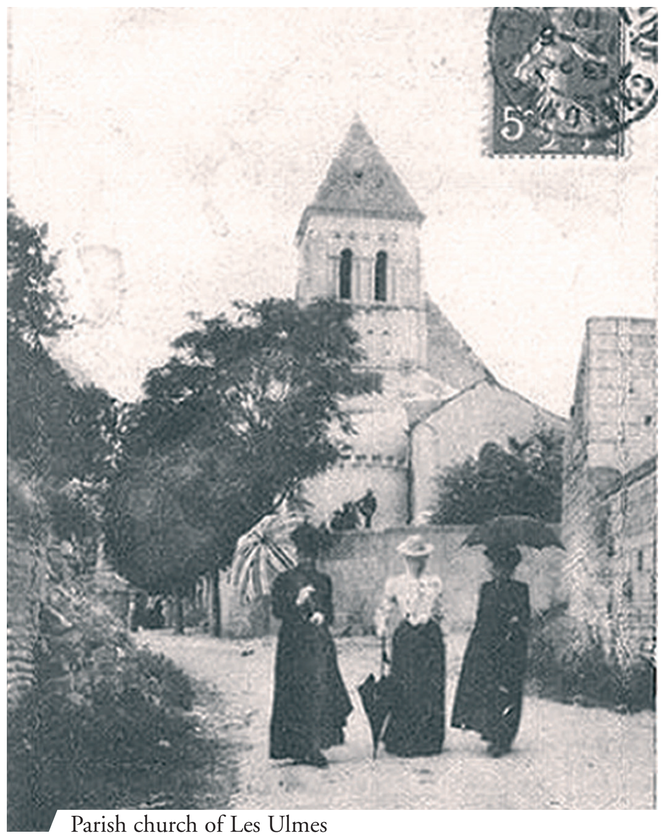
Eucharistic Miracle of LES ULMES

FRANCE, 1668

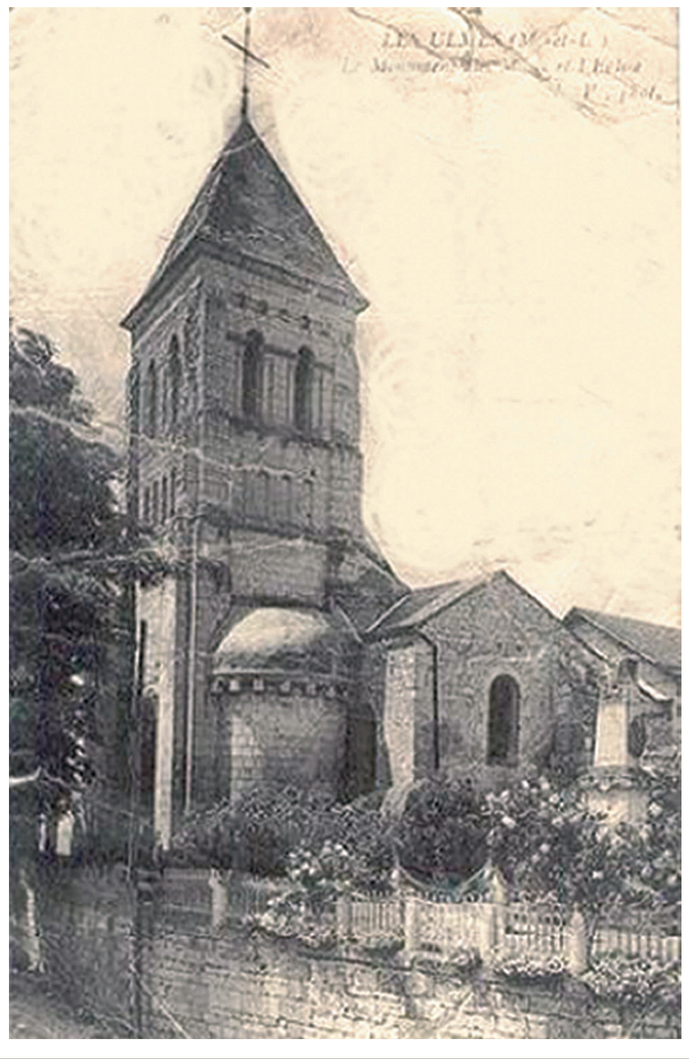
In the Eucharistic miracle of Les Ulmes, it was during the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for public adoration, that, in place of the Host, there appeared the shape of a man with light-brown hair falling over his back, a luminous face, the hands crossed one over the other, and a white tunic covering the body. After close examination the Bishop authorized devotion to this Eucharistic Miracle. Even today in the church, the recess which contained the miraculous Host for more than 130 years can be seen. The Host was devoutly consumed by the Vicar of Puy Notre Dame during the French Revolution, for fear that this Blessed Sacrament would be profaned.

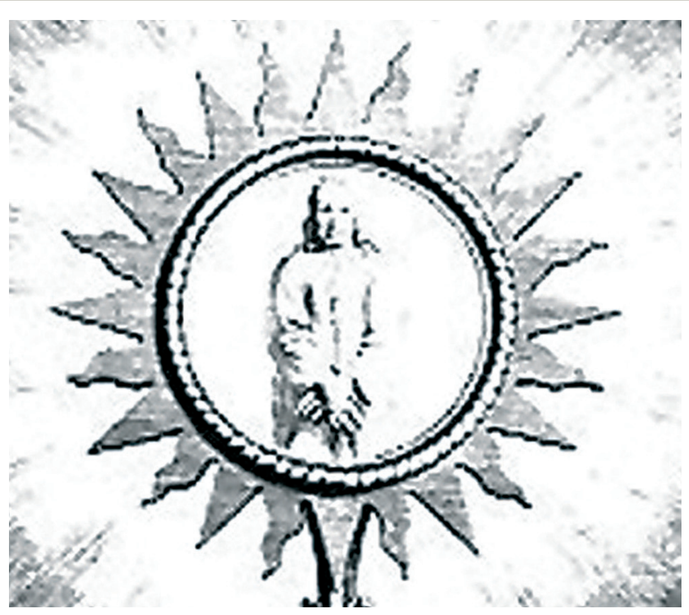


Old print which represents the miracle, Paris



Parish church of Les Ulmes





On June 2 1668, Saturday of the Octave of Corpus Christi, in the small Church of Les Ulmes, the Blessed Sacrament was exposed for public adoration. The Pastor of the Church, Nicolas Nezan, began to incense the monstrance. While the hymn *Pange Lingua* was being sung, "and having reached the stanza *'Verbum caro Panem verum'*, the shape of a man appeared in the monstrance in place of the Host. He appeared to have light brown hair that fell over his back, a luminous face, the hands crossed one over the other, and the body covered by a white tunic. This apparition lasted for more than a quarter of an hour, whether on the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed, or on the altar where the priest had moved the Blessed Sacrament to allow a closer look to all those present."

On June 13, the pastor immediately sent a message of what had occurred to his Bishop, Henry Arnauld, who quickly ordered an inquiry. On June 25 the pastoral letter was published containing the "faithful description" of the marvel. Among the several works which followed and which sought the objective description contained in the letter, we remember that of the Dominican Father Gonet, who describes the event in Volume VIII of his work *Clypeus Theologiae*, published for the first time in 1669 by the French editor Bertier.

The Bishop ordered this fact to be diffused widely, therefore three engravings were immediately commissioned: one of Edelynck which is still in Paris, of optimal quality; one of Jean Bidault di Saumur and lastly, one by the editor Ernoudi Parigi. At the end of the 18th century in the parish of Les Ulmes, every year the anniversary of the apparition was solemnly celebrated. In 1901 the International Eucharistic Congress of Angers was celebrated in this parish and in July 1933, during the National Eucharistic Congress, a complete session of study was dedicated to the miracle of 1668. Even today in the church, the recess can be seen that for 130 years contained the miraculous Host. The Sacred Species was devoutly consumed during the French Revolution by the Vicar of Puy-Notre-Dame who was afraid that the Precious Sacrament would be profaned.

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