Eucharistic Miracle of SALZANO

ITALY, 1517

An extraordinary event occurred in Salzano in 1517. A priest was called with urgent haste to bring the Viaticum to an invalid on the brink of death. The season and the time of day were not appropriate to make a procession, and so the priest had to be content with only one altar boy. Upon arrival at the meadows surrounding the Muson River, several donkeys that were grazing faced themselves in the direction of the pius convoy and, after approaching the priest, they bowed on their knees and then followed the Most Holy Sacrament all the way to the home of the infirm, renewing the genuflection; and then, always with the priest, they walked back to return to the pasture.

Church dedicated to Saint Bartholomew, where the fresco of the miracle is preserved.

Museum of St. Pius X in Salzano, where relics, documents, mementos and precious objects are preserved, among which are the very beautiful chasubles and stoles donated by the same Pope.

Fresco that depicts the miracle, painted by Gian Maria Lepscky, Church of St. Bartholomew.

When Saint Ignatius of Loyola and his companions, in 1536, paused in Venice and in the nearby cities, while waiting for their departure for the Holy Land, they passed several days by the Episcopal Castle of Stigliano, and in this way they had the opportunity to make the acquaintance of and personally evaluate the Phenomenon that was described in a writing by the Jesuit Servant of God, Simone Rodriguez. Here it is narrated about how a certain "Priest by the name of Lorenzo was called with urgency to administer the Holy Viaticum on the western confines of the parish, between Zeminiana and Briana, to a moribund ill person. The season and the hour were not suited for a procession, so the priest had to be satisfied with only one altar boy. Arriving at the meadows surrounding the Muson River, commonly called Cime, several donkeys that were grazing faced themselves in the direction of the pius convoy and, after approaching the priest, they bowed on their knees and then followed the Most Holy Sacrament all the way to the home of the infirm, renewing the genuflection; and then, always with Father Lorenzo, they returned, stopping in the pasture…. This news is repeated by the elders to the children, and from the priests in the religion classes to the parishioners." Of the Miracle even the Bollandists speak, L.M. Gerola in "The Book for All," P. Beccaro in "Close to Jesus," and P. Sanna Solaro, S.I. in a publication about Eucharistic events that occurred in Italy.

The wondrous marvel was also referred to the Eucharistic Congress of Milan and it was also desired to illustrate it in the one of Venice, according to the correspondence of 1897, preserved in the parish archive. In the History of the Society of Jesus, by Nicolò Orlandino, printed in Bologna by Bartolomeo Zanetti in 1615, again the episode is recounted. This story was written by the Servant of God Simone Rodriguez, a man equipped with extensive knowledge, who died in the odor of sanctity in Lisbon Portugal, on the 15th of July 1579. To this document the Curia attached also a notice that confirms the name of the priest spectator of the Miracle, which served to determine even more the date of the Miracle. Father Lorenzo was indeed Chaplain of the Church of Salzano precisely in the month of August in 1517; and he was summoned to the Curia to testify on questions about the parish, which at that time was held by Don Francesco Artuso, who was the pastor in that place until about 1550. The Miracle was concluded to have occurred in the year 1517, and Father Rodriguez, who surely spoke with Don Artuso, was allowed to examine the verbal proceedings, drafted by the competent authorities of that time.

© 2006, Edizioni San Clemente