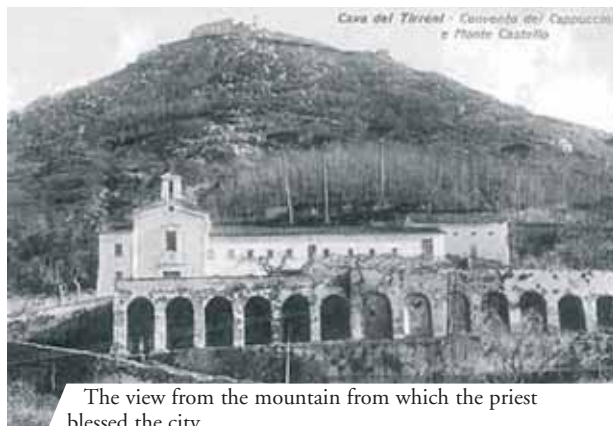


Eucharistic Miracle of **CAVA DEI TIRRENI**

ITALY, 1656



The “Feast of the Castello” has been faithfully celebrated since 1657 and it recalls the plague epidemic which visited the Citta di Cava on May 25, 1656, Ascension Thursday. The plague was stopped by a religious procession of the Corpus Christi which started from the Castle of the Annunciation and proceeded to the higher terrace of Monte Castello.



The view from the mountain from which the priest blessed the city



The annual fireworks at Cava, on the anniversary of the miracle



The Eucharistic miracle is recalled each year during the “Sagra di Montecastello”

In May of 1656, a terrible epidemic of the plague overtook the city of Naples as a result of the invasion by Spanish troops from Sardinia. The plague spread so quickly to the neighboring villages and surrounding countryside that it was soon at the gates of the city of Cava dei Tirreni. The victims numbered in the thousands both in the villages and the urban centers. Fr. Paolo Franco was one of the few priests who had been spared and who had not succumbed to the epidemic. Despite the danger of contagion, he was divinely inspired to lead the people in a procession of reparation within a few kilometers of the summit of the Castello. When they arrived at the summit of the mountain, Fr. Franco blessed Cava dei Tirreni with the Blessed Sacrament. The epidemic miraculously stopped; to this day the townspeople commemorate the miracle with a solemn annual procession during the month of June.



Panoramic view of Cava dei Tirreni



An antique print (ca. 18th Century) depicting the miracle