

Eucharistic Miracle of TURIN

ITALY, 1453



Inside the Corpus Domini Basilica in Turin, there is an iron railing that closes in the place where it came true the first Eucharistic miracle that happened in Turin in 1453. An inscription inside the railing describes the miracle: “Here the she-mule, that was carrying the Divine Body, fell prostrate - here the Sacred Host, having freed Itself from the bag that was imprisoning It, rose by Itself high - here clement came down among the suppliant hands of the Torinese - here then the place made holy by the miracle - remembering it, praying on your knees let it move you to venerate or to be in fear (June 6, 1453)”.



Interior of the Corpus Domini's Basilica



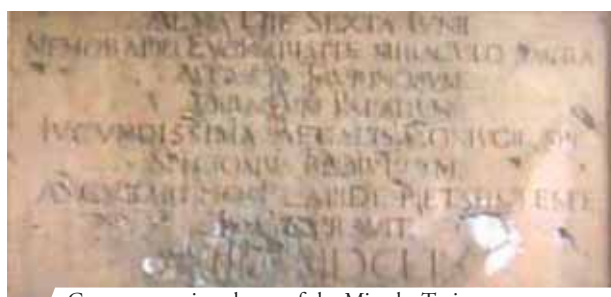
In entering the Basilica of Corpus Domini in Turin, you can soon notice over the altar a painting of Bartolomeo Garavaglia, a painter and follower of the Guercino. It portrays the great Eucharist Miracle of 1453.



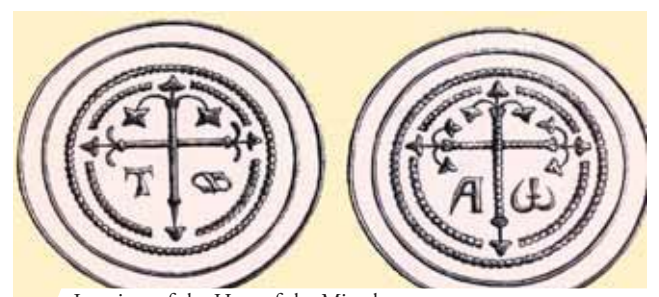
Representations of Miracle of Turin



Basilica of the Corpus Domini, Turin



Commemorative plaque of the Miracle, Turin



Imprints of the Host of the Miracle

In the Alta Val Susa, close to Exilles, the army of René D'Angiò met the army of the duke Ludovic of Savoy. Here the soldiers indulged in plundering the town and some of them entered the church. One of them, forced open the tabernacle's little door and stole the monstrance with the consecrated Host. He wrapped up all that he had stolen in a bag and on a mule he headed for Turin. On the main plaza, close to St. Sylvester's church, now the Holy Spirit church, where later the Church of Corpus Domini was built; the she-mule stumbled and fell. Then suddenly the bag opened and the monstrance with the consecrated Host rose over the surrounding houses while the people were filled with wonder. Among those present there was also Don Bartholomew Coccolo. He ran with this news to the Bishop, Ludovic of the Romagnano's Marquises. The Bishop, accompanied by a cortege of

people and clergy, went to the plaza, prostrated himself in adoration and prayed with the words of the Emmaus disciples, “Stay with us, Lord”. Meanwhile a new miracle had happened; the monstrance had fallen on the ground, had let the consecrated Host free and shining, as a second sun. The Bishop who was holding a chalice in his hands, lifted it up high, and the consecrated Host slowly started coming down and landing in the chalice.

The devotion for the miracle of 1453 was at once adopted by the town that first promoted the building of an aedicule on the place of the Miracle, and then soon substituted by the church dedicated to the Corpus Domini. But the most significant display of this is expressed by the celebrations organized in occasion

of the centenaries and fiftieth anniversaries (1653, 1703, 1853, and partially 1803). The documents that describe the miracles are many. The most ancient are the three Capitulary Acts of 1454, 1455 and 1456, and some writings contemporary of the Turin Municipality. In 1853 the Blessed Pope Pius IX solemnly celebrated the fourth centenary of the miracle. In this celebration Saint John Bosco and Don Rua participated. Furthermore, Pius IX on this occasion approved the Office and the Mass Proper of the miracle for the Turin archdiocese. In 1928 Pius XI raised the Church of Corpus Domini to the dignity of minor basilica. The Host of the miracle was kept till the XV century when the Holy See gave order to consume it, “to not oblige God to make the miracle an eternal miracle by keeping always incorrupt, as they had being doing, those very same Eucharistic species”.

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To house the miraculous Host, a tabernacle was built in the cathedral in 1455. The miraculous Host was removed from the tabernacle in 1492 when the works for the construction of the new edifice, planned by Meo del Caprino, were started. In 1528, on the spot where the miraculous event took place, the aedicule of Matthew Sanmicheli was built. It was decorated with paintings that were recalling the most important phases of the event. This edifice was replaced by the present church of Corpus Domini, which was started by Ascanio Vittozzi in 1604. The building of Corpus Domini was decided by the municipality in 1598 during the epidemic of the plague, and also to answer to a request made by the Holy Spirit Confraternity.



Reproduction of the miraculous Host taken from the *miracle of Turin* illustrated on the occasion of the first international Eucharistic congress, Turin, Canonica Brothers Typography, 1894 (Simeon Collection, C 9200)



Luigi Vacca (1853), frescoes that decorate the basilica's vault and illustrate the stages of the miracle



G.A. Recchi, frescoes that describe the miracle and that are at the town hall of Turin



Interior of Corpus Domini's Basilica



Chalice of the Miracle of Turin



Plaque where the mule fell down



Box of cypress made by the town of Turin in 1672 to keep the documents about the miracle

per non obbligare Dio
a fare eterno miracolo
col mantenere sempre
incorrotte, come si
mantennero, quelle
stesse eucaristiche
specie

Plaque on which it is said that the Host of the miracle was consumed, "to not oblige God to perform an eternal miracle..."



Anonymous, *Miracle of the Blessed Sacrament*, occurred in the very famous and glorious town of Turin, in the year 1453 on June 6 about 8:00 P.M., engraved plate attached to *The Secular Year* (Simeon Collection C 2412). The triptych illustrates the salient phases of the event: the stealing of the consecrated Host at Exilles, the falling down of the she-mule, the ascension of the Host, and its depositing into the chalice. The two lateral arches are surmounted by the city's coat of arms.



The iron with which the miraculous Host had been engraved was transferred to Turin from Exilles in 1673 and in 1684 it was donated to the municipality that still today keeps it among the deposits of the municipality's historic archives.