

Eucharistic Miracle of MACERATA

ITALY, 1356



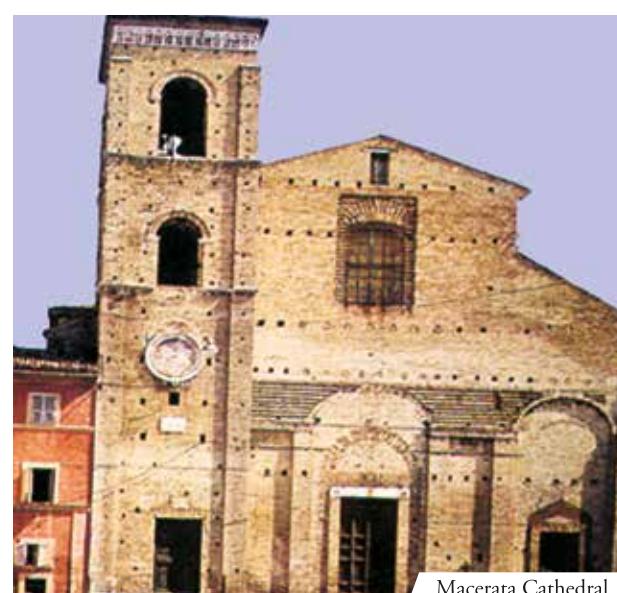
On April 25, 1356, at Macerata, a priest whose name is not known was celebrating Mass in the chapel of the Church of St. Catherine, owned by the Benedictine monks. During the breaking of the bread, before Communion, the priest began to doubt the Real Presence of Jesus in the consecrated Host. Precisely in the moment in which he broke the Host, to his great surprise, he saw flow from the Host an abundance of Blood which marked part of the cloth and the chalice place on the altar.



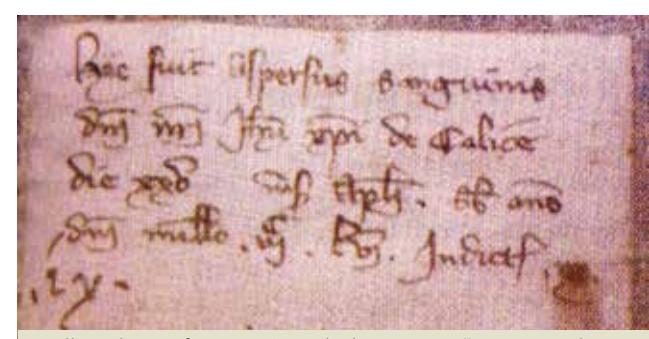
View of Macerata



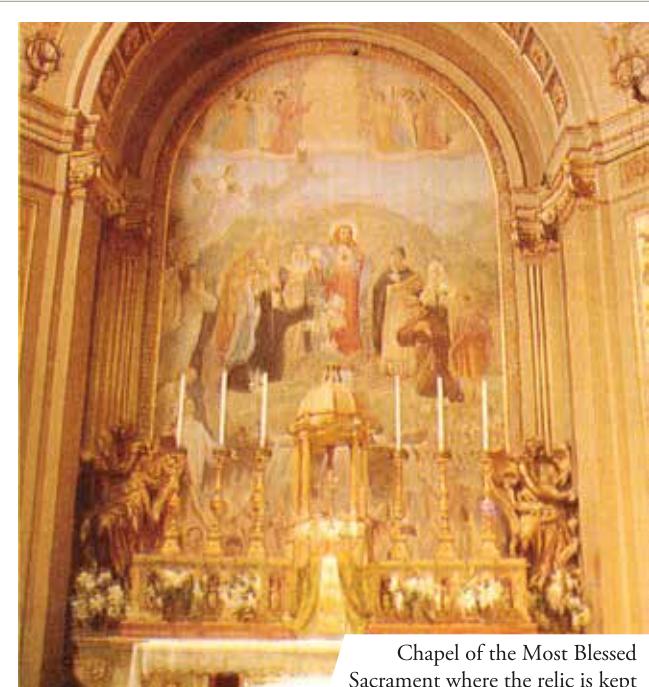
Relic of the Blood-Stained Corporal



Macerata Cathedral



Small parchment from 1356 on which is written: "Here came the flow of Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ from the chalice on April 25 in the Year of Our Lord 1356"



Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament where the relic is kept

At Macerata in the church of the Cathedral of Holy Mary Assumed and St. Giuliano, under the altar of the Most Holy Sacrament, it is possible to venerate the relic of the "corporal marked by blood." Also preserved in this church is the parchment on which the miracle is described. Furthermore, the historian Ferdinando Ughelli cited this miracle in his work *Sacred Italy* of 1647 and describes how since the 14th century "the corporal has been carried in solemn procession through the city, enclosed in an urn of crystal and silver, with the concourse of all Piceno." All of the documents likewise agree in the description of how the miraculous facts occurred. An anonymous priest during the Mass was struck with strong doubts about the reality of the transubstantiation, and when he broke the Great Host, he saw Blood drop from the Host and fall onto the corporal and chalice. The priest immediately in-

formed Bishop Nicholas of San Martino, which ordered that the relic of bloodstained cloth be carried into the cathedral and instituted a regular canonical process.

In 1493 one of the first confraternities in honor of the Most Blessed Sacrament was instituted at Macerata (1494) and it was here that the pious practice of Forty Hours was established in 1556. Every year, on the occasion of Corpus Christi, the corporal of the miracle is carried in procession behind the Most Blessed Sacrament.