

My beloved brothers and sisters, on the many occasions I have led Pilgrims to Fatima, San Diego de Compostela and then to Lourdes, We have often stopped at Santarem, Portugal, which is about fifteen minutes from Fatima. It is a little tiny Church in a little village, La Igreja do Santissimo Milagre, but it is one of the most famous Churches in the world because of the miracle that took place there! A woman faced with an adulterous husband decided to seek the help of a witch to win him back. The witch offered to perform a spell; however, she required that she bring back a consecrated host to her to use in her witchcraft. She carefully took the host she received from her mouth and hid it in a basket. As she left the church, the host began to bleed, and she told people that she had cut her hand. That night, she placed the host in a trunk in her bedroom. Both she and her husband were startled with a bright light coming from the trunk. When she opened the trunk, the host had turned to human flesh, and she and her husband knelt to adore in repentance for the sacrilege. The priest was called, and he placed the host still human flesh, in a wax capsule and placed it in the Tabernacle. When he opened the Tabernacle, the wax capsule was broken in pieces, and the host was now contained in a crystal lunette. It is now on display above the Tabernacle; where people can come and adore, and wonder! I have seen it. It has remained uncorrupted for hundreds of years in a very humid atmosphere!

We are so non-chalant about the Sacred Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ truly present in the Eucharist. Many who come to mass, do not believe in the Sacred Presence, many commit sacrilege by receiving unworthily; and yet, this is the greatest of miracles in the entire Cosmos. This is why we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi. Today, throughout the entire world, Catholic are celebrating this miracle in the Eucharist and honoring Jesus, truly present, in long processions through the streets of their cities. This is what we honor and believe: during the Consecration, by the Power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the Priest or Bishop, ordinary unleavened bread and wine, are changed into the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, truly present and remaining afterwards. This is called: Transubstantiation. The gifts are truly changed, and the 2nd Person of the Trinity in Jesus Christ is truly present in them! Although the appearances remain in the semblance of bread and wine, underneath this

appearance is Jesus Christ. That is why we treat the Host and the Chalice with such reverence and adoration. Jesus Christ, Son of God is truly present! St. John Vianney, the Patron of All Priests reminds us, that before this mystery, the very Angels and Saints bow their very faces to the ground in adoration.

This miracle continues, and there have been many, many miracles that attest to this reality throughout the centuries, many hundreds of years apart, and many, many miles apart. In a village in Venezuela, the Host turned to human flesh, and pulsates fire as people adore in the little chapel in the Church. In all of these many Eucharistic Miracles, they have been tested: in each case, it is the same rare blood type, and the same DNA, and the same tissue- human cardiac tissue. In the Eucharist, the very heart of God is given to us and on display for us as the supreme gift of God that unites us with God Himself and with one another! Please, please, from now on, and for the rest of your lives, come with wonder and awe before so great a God, so humble, who would feed us with His very self!