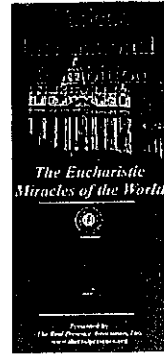


The Vatican International Exhibition *The Eucharistic Miracles of the World*



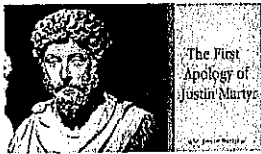
is coming to St Mary's June 5th thru June 13th. This photo exhibit displays many of the over 170 Catholic Church approved Eucharistic miracles of the world. The original exhibit premiered in Rome in October, 2005, and was sponsored by the Institute St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr. This form of the exhibit is being brought to the United States through the efforts of the Real Presence Eucharistic

Education and Adoration Association in cooperation with the Pontifical Academy *Cultorum Martyrum*. Major local sponsors include Holy Family Radio (720am), Lancaster Catholic High School, Knights of Columbus Council 6810, and the Lancaster region Order of Malta.

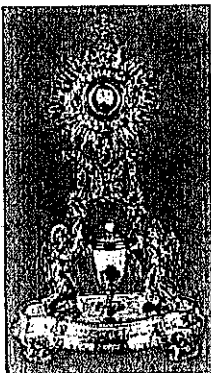
Exactly what are Eucharistic miracles? The Catholic Church has always taught that at mass, through the words directed by Jesus as found in the Bible when spoken by the priest, that the bread and wine offered up are transformed and become the actual body and blood of Jesus. Evidence of the continuum of this belief through the ages can be found by examining the writings of the early church fathers where, for example, St. Justin Martyr in *The First Apology of Justin* written around 150 A.D. wrote, ".... this food is called among us Eucharistia [the Eucharist],For not as common bread and common drink do we receive these; but....we been taught that the food which is blessed by the prayer of His word, and from which our blood and flesh by

transmutation are nourished, is the flesh and blood of that Jesus who was made flesh...." For the first few centuries of Christianity there was no disagreement among the church fathers of this teaching in the church. This teaching continues to be passed on in the church today, where at every mass the miracle occurs, and bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Christ. Eucharistic miracles then are a manifestation where the

consecrated bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ normally visible to us as bread and wine, change their outward appearance. Sometimes they show themselves as actual flesh and blood, other times they become luminous or even levitate, at other times images appear on the Bread or other extraordinary events take place.



The First
Apology of
Justin Martyr



One of the most famous Eucharistic miracles occurred at the Church of St. Francis in Lanciano, Italy in 750 A.D. Here, during the mass and to the astonishment of the priest and all present, the bread and wine turned physically into visible flesh and blood. The miracle has been studied numerous times over the centuries. Most recently the World Health Organization in 1973 spent 15 months and administered over 500 tests and found the flesh to be that of human heart tissue, the blood samples were type AB (same as that found on the shroud of Turin) and both the blood and the flesh reacted as if they were fresh tissue. The miraculous flesh and blood can still be viewed today at the Church in Lanciano, Italy. This miracle is one of the 152 miracles described in the photo exhibit of *The Eucharistic Miracles of the World*.

All are invited to come and read the stories of these Eucharistic miracles. Admission is free. *The Eucharistic Miracles of the World* exhibit is available for showing to all Catholic parishes in the area. For more information contact Fr. Peter at the Parish Office at 717-642-8815.

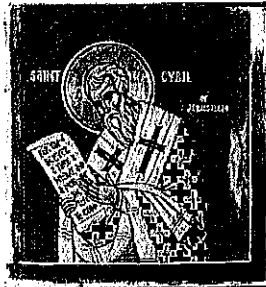
Early Church Fathers on the Real Presence



St. Ignatius became the third Bishop of Antioch circa 67 A.D., succeeding St. Evodius, who was the immediate successor of St. Peter. He heard St. John preach when he was a boy and knew St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. Seven of his letters written to various Christian communities have been preserved. Eventually, he received the martyr's crown as he was thrown to wild beasts in the arena.

".....They abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer, because they do not admit that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, the flesh which suffered for our sins and which the Father, in His graciousness, raised from the dead."

"Letter to the Smyrnaeans", paragraph 6. circa 80-110 A.D.



St. Cyril (315-386 A.D.), Doctor of the Church served as Bishop of Jerusalem in the years 348-378 A.D. His *Catechetical Lectures* are one of the great treasures of the church.

"Therefore with fullest assurance let us partake as of the Body and Blood of Christ: for in the figure of Bread is given to thee His Body, and in the figure of Wine His Blood; that thou by partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, mightest be made of the same body and the same blood with Him. For thus we come to bear Christ in us, because His Body and Blood are diffused through our members; thus it is that, according to the blessed

Peter, (we become partaker of the divine nature.)" [2 Peter 1:4]

Catechetical Lectures [22 (Mystagogic 4), 3]

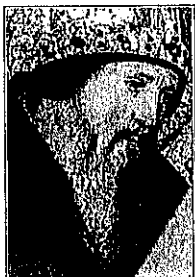


St. John Chrysostom (347-407 A.D.), Doctor of the Church served as a priest in the main church of Antioch from 386-397 A.D. He soon became renown for his preaching and writing skills. In 397 A.D. he succeeded St. Gregory of Nazianz as Bishop of Constantinople.

"It is not the power of man which makes what is put before us the Body and Blood of Christ, but the power of Christ Himself who was crucified for us. The priest standing there in the place of Christ says these words but their power and grace are from God. 'This is My

Body,' he says, and these words transform what lies before him."

"Homilies on the Treachery of Judas" 1,6



St. Augustine (347 - 430 A.D.) Doctor of the Church, served as Bishop of Hippo fro 396 - 430 A.D. Considered one of the two greatest intellects of the Church. His writings included *Confessions*, *City of Gold* and his *Sermons*

"You ought to know what you have received, what you are going to receive, and what you ought to receive daily. That Bread which you see on the altar, having been sanctified by the word of God, is the Body of Christ. The chalice, or rather, what is in that chalice, having been sanctified by the word of God, is the Blood of Christ."

"Sermons", [227, 21]