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On The Cover

The Monstrance at the Shrine of Lanciano, Italy, where the Miraculous Eucharist is kept. The precious Relics were placed into the Monstrance on April 16, 1713.

The Eucharistic Miracle at Lanciano

In about the year 700, a Basilian monk in Lanciano, Italy had continuous doubts about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. He could not bring himself around to believe that at the words of consecration uttered by him over bread and wine, their substances became the Body and Blood of Christ. But being a devout priest he continued to celebrate the sacrament according to the teaching of the Church and begged God to remove the doubt from him.

One day, as he was offering the Holy Sacrifice, following the words of consecration, the bread literally changed into Flesh and the wine into Blood. At first he was overwhelmed by what he saw. Then, regaining his composure, he called the faithful present to come to the altar to see what the Lord had caused to happen.

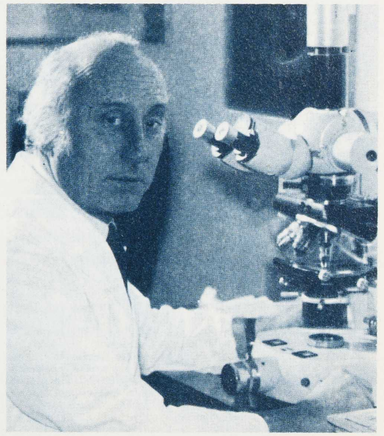
The changed substances were not consumed. The bread-turned-flesh, and the Blood, which coagulated into five irregular globules, were placed in a precious ivory container, where they are preserved even to the present day at the Shrine in Lanciano. Many years later, the Church, wanting to ascertain the true nature of the substances, requested modern scientists to examine them and give its verdict. In November of 1970 a team of medical experts was convened to begin the investigation. It was chaired by Professor Odoardo Linoli. At the start of the investigation he was very sceptical of the matter, but by the middle of December he sent his first message to the Director of the Shrine. It was a very brief but dramatic telegram: *In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was made Flesh.*

On March 4, 1971 the complete report was ready. The analyses verified the following:

- The Flesh is real flesh. The Blood is real blood.
- The Flesh consists of the muscular tissue of the heart (myocardium).
- The Flesh and Blood belong to the human species.
- The Flesh and the Blood have the same blood type (AB).
- In the Blood there were found proteins in the same normal proportions (percentage-wise) as are found in the make-up of fresh normal blood.
- In the Blood there were also found these minerals: chlorides, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, sodium and calcium.
- The preservation of the Flesh and Blood, which were left in their natural state for twelve centuries (i.e. without any chemical preservatives) and exposed to the action of atmospheric and biological agents, remains an extraordinary phenomenon.

It may be said in conclusion that Science, when called to testify, has given a certain and thorough response to the authenticity of the Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano. For further information on The Eucharistic Miracle at Lanciano, write to: Dr. Richard Tacon, 4010 Dupont Circle, Suite 114, Louisville, Kentucky 40207.

November 3, 1974: Pope John Paul II, then Cardinal of Cracow, after venerating the Holy Relics expressed His devotion in the Shrine guest register thus: "Make us always to believe more in you, to have hope in you, and to love you." (Eucharistic Hymn of St. Thomas)



Dr. Odoardo Linoli, Distinguished Professor in Anatomy and Pathological Histology, Chemistry and Clinical Microscopy.