

Eucharistic Miracles

reflection # 11

Fiecht, Austria (1310)

During this third year of the 3-year *National Eucharistic Revival* our parish is examining some of the Eucharistic miracles that have occurred over the centuries. Today we go to **Fiecht, Austria in the year 1310**. Fiecht is a small village northeast of Innsbruck, Austria and south of Munich, Germany.

In 1310 a priest was celebrating Mass in the church dedicated to the holy martyr George and the Holy Apostle James. After the consecration of the wine, the priest had doubts as to whether the Blood of Christ was really present. Suddenly the wine changed into red blood that began to boil in the chalice and overflow it. The priest was terrified and unable to drink from the chalice. The abbot of the local monastery along with many other people witnessed this event. The abbot placed the cloth which wiped the chalice and the remainder of the Blood in a vessel in the tabernacle of the main altar. News of the miraculous event spread, and more and more pilgrims began to arrive to adore the sacred Blood.

In 1472 the Holy Blood was studied better. As a result of that investigation, the adoration of the Blessed Blood was encouraged, and the miracle was declared authentic.

During the post Reformation years of the 1500s and 1600s this miracle was often cited in defending the Church's teaching about Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist. To this day thousands of pilgrims have flocked to Fiecht and viewed this *holy blood* held in a reliquary at the monastery of St. Georgenberg.

Miracles such as these are meant to sustain and deepen our faith in Lord's Real Presence in the Eucharist. As John's Gospel teaches — **whoever eats this flesh and drinks this blood will have eternal life and be raised on the last day. Such is the glory of being a Eucharistic people!**