Eucharistic Miracles

reflection # 8
Tumaco, Colombia (1906)

As we begin the final year of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival we are taking a moment to look at a number of extraordinary 'Eucharistic phenomena' that have occurred over the centuries. Today's phenomenon took place in **Tumaco, Colombia** on **January 31st of 1906.**

Tumaco is a harbor city in southwest Colombia on the Pacific Ocean near the border with Ecuador. On January 31st an undersea earthquake shook this city for 10 minutes causing enormous damage with the ocean beginning to recede. Seafaring people knew this was an unfailing sign of the beginning of a tsunami. A huge wall of water formed in the ocean and started on its way to Tumaco.

Two Augustinian priests carrying the Blessed Sacrament in a ciborium along with the villagers began a Eucharistic procession to the sea. Upon arriving at the sea shore, the priest raised the host making a sign of the cross. The waters came up to waists of the monks, but never touched the Host. The waters began to recede and return to their normal level. What had threatened the destruction of Tumaco and the death of its people had abated. Immediately it was called *'a miracle'* by those present and became known around the world.

Every year on the three days surrounding January 31st a 40-hour Eucharistic devotion is held at the Cathedral of San Andreas in Tumaco. This includes a Eucharistic procession that passes precisely along the beach where the priest faced the raging sea with the Blessed Sacrament. Recently the mayor of Tumaco gave Pope Francis an image representing this extraordinary event.

For people of faith Scripture has many moments such as these – *Moses facing the Red Sea, Joshua and Elijah opening the Jordan River and so on.*

 God is truly present in our many needs. But, his Real Presence in the Eucharist at Mass, and in the tabernacles of our churches puts us in constant companionship with the *King of kings.* **Blessed are we who partake!!**