

Eucharistic Miracles

an introduction

This is the third and final year of the National Eucharistic Revival for the United States of America. At last year's Sunday Masses during the summer and Fall months we focused on what the Catechism of the Catholic Church taught about the Eucharist and many questions pertaining to it.

This year we would like to examine some of the many miracles surrounding the Eucharist that have occurred over many centuries in various parts of the world.

By definition a miracle is a sensible, physical effect that defies scientific explanation. Miracles attest to the fact that there is an order of knowledge beyond the physical and material world in which we live. Faith declares that miracles are works of God to point out supernatural truths that often go unnoticed.

Too often when it comes to miracles people emphasize the spectacular or even bizarre aspects of a miracle – **rather than seeing its meaning for our lives of faith**. That is why the '*seven (7) miracles*' that Jesus worked in John's Gospel are called signs. Signs are meant to draw our attention to God and his deeper, inner workings in our time and history.

In particular, Eucharistic miracles are meant to declare God's abiding presence among us and within us as we partake of nothing less than his Body & Blood in the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist.

He promised to be with us until the end of time.

He declared the bread and wine of the Last Supper to be his Body & Blood.

He asked us to do this in remembrance of him.

Sometimes people become indifferent to His presence.

Sometimes people doubt His presence.

Sometimes people deny His presence.

In response — sometimes God works miracles to awaken our sensibilities, to reinvigorate our lack-luster faith, to flummox our arrogant disbelief.

In this spirit we will examine a number of Eucharistic miracles over the next 20 plus weeks of Ordinary Time.