

Eucharistic Miracles

reflection # 12

Eten, Peru (1649)

As Christ lives in the Eucharist, the Eucharist has become a powerful vehicle through which Christ makes his abiding presence known to the human race. One such Eucharistic marvel occurred in **Eten, Peru in June and July of 1649**. Eten is a port city on the Pacific ocean in northwest Peru.

On the feast of Corpus Christi in 1649 the local church was celebrating evening prayer along with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. As the priest was about to repose the sacred host to the tabernacle, he suddenly stopped. In the host, there appeared a child with thick brown curls framing his face. All the faithful present witnessed the same vision.

A number of days later the local church was celebrating the feast of their patron saint – **St. Mary Magdalene** – along with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. **A second apparition took place**. The Divine Child again appeared in the Host, dressed in the traditional clothing of the South American Indians. This was a sign that the Divine Child wanted to identify with the indigent population, demonstrating his love for them. Many who witnessed this apparition also saw three white hearts linked together, signifying the Real Presence of the Trinity in the Host. This apparition lasted about 15 minutes.

To this day and over the course of 12 days, thousands of faithful pilgrims gather to celebrate this feast in honor of the Miracle of the Divine Child of Eten. As part of that celebration pilgrims escort the Host of the Miracle from its Sanctuary to the church in the city of Eten.

As this miracle awakened the faith of the people of Eten to Christ's Real Presence among them, may every Eucharistic celebration re-awaken us to the presence and mystery of God's saving love among us and within us as we enter communion with him. **Such is the glory of the Eucharist!!**