

# Eucharistic Miracles

*reflection # 13*

**Ludbreg, Croatia (1411)**

In our continuing reflections on Eucharistic marvels, today's miracle happened in **Ludbreg, Croatia in 1411**. The city of Ludbreg lies in northern Croatia near its border with Hungary.

While celebrating Mass and during the consecration, the local priest doubted the Real Presence. The wine in the chalice then turned to blood. Frightened, the priest did not know what to do. He decided to have the chalice, as a relic, embedded in the wall behind the altar. The craftsman who did this was sworn to secrecy. Only years later, on his deathbed, did the priest admit what had happened. When the chalice was exhumed, it was found to still contain the Precious Blood in perfect form.

Over the course of a century and many investigations **The Holy See eventually had the relic brought to Rome and** on April 14, 1513 Pope Leo X published a decree permitting veneration of this holy relic.

In 1739 a plague threatened northern Croatia and even the government vowed to build a chapel at Ludbreg in honor of this miracle, if the plague ended. The plague was averted, but the promise to build the chapel was only fulfilled in 1994, when democracy was restored to Croatia.

To this day, the relic remains in perfect condition. It is held in the chapel in Ludbreg. Every year on the first Sunday of September, known in Ludbreg as *the Holy Sunday*, this Eucharistic miracle is celebrated for an entire week.

Over the centuries at unknown times and in unknown places, Christ has revealed his Eucharistic Presence in extraordinary ways. This has been done to foster our love of the Eucharist. As Christ said to Thomas – **and to us --**, *“blest are they who have not seen and have believed.”* **Such is the glory of Eucharistic faith!**