

Eucharistic Miracles

reflection # 15

Faverney, France (1608)

In our ongoing exposition of Eucharistic marvels today's event occurred in **Faverney, France in 1608**. Faverney is in east central France not far from the joint border of Germany and Switzerland.

The vigil of Pentecost began a 3-day festival commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. The local Benedictine monastery had made a special wooden stand upon which to place the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament and the oil lamps for this special prayer time.

After evening prayer and at the close of the day on Pentecost the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament with the oil lamps had been carelessly left unattended. When the monastery's sacristan came at 3 a.m. to get ready for Morning prayer the chapel was filled with smoke. The wooden altar of repose holding the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament had been destroyed by fire from the oil lamps. In this darkened chapel the monks frantically searched through the ashes to find the monstrance and the Blessed Sacrament. As morning light filtered into the chapel, the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament was seen suspended mid air above the destroyed wooden altar. It remained suspended for 33 hours. When Mass was celebrated on the church's main altar, the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament slowly descended to a make-shift stand that had been constructed.

This levitation was witnessed by numerous townspeople and monks with witness testimony being gathered and cross-testified. Within a few months the archbishop declared this miracle to be authentic. In 1862 the Vatican authorized the celebration of this miracle. To this very day this monstrance and its consecrated host are venerated by numerous pilgrims.

As Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist stoked the fires of faith in the people of Faverney, may our regular communion with the Lord's Body and Blood unite us in love of creation and in service to the human race for whom Christ died and rose.