

Eucharistic Miracle of **GORKUM-EL ESCORIAL**

NETHERLANDS-SPAIN, 1572



The relic of the Eucharistic miracle can be venerated even today in Spain. But it is kept in the Royal Monastery in El Escorial, but the miracle was verified in Holland. Some Protestant mercenaries entered into the Catholic church in Gorkum and plundered it. As a sign of insult, one of the mercenaries trampled a consecrated Host with a spiked boot, which broke it into three pieces. Immediately from these piercings, it began to drip live Blood and in the Hosts formed themselves like three small wounds in the shape of a hoop that is possible to contemplate even today.



Courtyard of the Church of the Royal Monastery "Escorial"



Procession in Honor of the Miracle - Dignitaries of Court in Adoration before the Sagrada Forma



The "Sagrada Forma"



View of the Royal Monastery of the Escorial



The altar where the painting recounting the Sagrada Forma is kept



Detail of the painting by Claudio Coello



King Filippo II



Painting by Claudio Coello commissioned by Carlos II



The Church where the miracle happened in Holland



Gothic temple designed by Vincente Lopez



The "Sagrada Forma" exposed in the gothic temple

The "Sagrada Forma" (Sacred Form) is kept intact and venerated even today in the sacristy of the Royal Monastery of San Lorenzo in El Escorial (near Madrid). It was desecrated in Gorkum (in Holland) in 1572 by some followers of Ulrich Zwingli (the so-called "Geux de la Mer") from the Money of the Prince of Orange.

After invading the city, they began to desecrate it, not saving even the cathedral. In fact, as soon as they entered, they began striking the tabernacle with bolts of iron, from which they seized the monstrance that contained the Blessed Sacrament. The Host was then thrown onto the ground and trampled with a spiked boot which broke it into three pieces. One of the profaners, penitent and upset by the sight, warned the Canon Jean van der Delft who

succeeded in making the Hosts safe. The relic, after having passed through various dangers, was given to King Philip II of Spain in 1594, who then placed it under the care of the Monastery of San Lorenzo in El Escorial. Above the altar where the miraculous Hosts are preserved, the Italian artist, Filippo Filippini made four bas-reliefs in marble and bronze that represents the phenomenal events. The painting by Claudio Coello (1621-1693) represents the inauguration of the magnificent tabernacle, commissioned by King Carlos II specifically to contain the precious relic. Each year in El Escorial, on September 29 and October 28, there are solemn festivities in remembrance of the miracle, in which there are moments where the Precious Host, known by the name of "Sagrada Forma", is exposed and carried in procession.