

# MIRACULOUS COMMUNIONS



One day, Saint Lucia Filippini was making her way to Pitigliano, near Grosseto, to supervise a school for craftsmen which she had founded. First, however, she stopped at the church of the Franciscan Fathers to attend Holy Mass. So great was Lucia's desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist that the Lord wished to reward her with a miracle. When the priest was breaking the large Host in half to place a small fragment in the chalice, this very part escaped his hand and flew into the air, radiating light, and came to rest on the tongue of the future saint. Today, the shrine where the miracle took place is under the care of the devout Filipini Sisters.



Saint Juliana Falconieri was always most devoted to the Holy Eucharist. In the last days of life, a stomach ailment which had afflicted her for a long time, as it became more acute, prevented her from receiving Communion. Before her death in 1341, she asked that a consecrated Host be placed on her chest, and as she recited a prayer, the Host disappeared and left a violet mark, as if it had been branded there. She was beatified in 1678 and canonized in 1737.



Blessed Imelda Lambertini, from childhood, already showed a great love for the Eucharistic Jesus but the chaplain reminded her that she could only receive Communion when she turned 14. Nevertheless on May 12, 1333 (Ascension Vigil), she went to Mass and presented herself to receive Holy Communion. The priest ignored her completely but the Lord wished to grant the desire of little Imelda. A Host radiating light rose up in flight, and stopped in front of Imelda. After she received the Body of Christ, her pure white soul flew straight up to heaven. Blessed Imelda is Patroness of First Communions.



Saint Bernard exorcising a woman with the Blessed Sacrament, The Hieron Museum



Saint Bonaventure receiving Communion from the hand of an angel, The Hieron Museum



Saint Secondo, before dying, receiving Holy Communion brought by a dove, The Hieron Museum



One of the miraculous Communions of Saint Jerome



Blessed Thomas of Cori (1655-1729) at age 22, entered the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor, at the monastery of the Most Holy Trinity in Orvieto, Italy. In his apostolate, he was distinguished by his exemplary practice of the Christian virtues. Several times during Mass, he had various apparitions of the Child Jesus.



Blessed Emilia Bicchieri was the foundress of the Dominican Third Order Regular and always nurtured a great love for the Blessed Sacrament. One day, while she was taking care of a fellow Sister who was very sick, she lost track of the time and so arrived at the end of the Holy Mass, thus missing Holy Communion. At that point, she began to express her regret to the Lord for not having been able to receive Him, and suddenly an Angel miraculously appeared to her and gave her Communion.



Saint Maria Francesca of the Five Wounds, in the last years of her life, was prevented from participating at Holy Mass because of a severe illness that left her bed-ridden. There were many episodes in which some of the priests, especially Father Bianchi, saw a piece of the consecrated large Host and a small amount of the consecrated wine disappear during their Mass; it was the saint's Guardian Angel who brought her Communion.



In earlier times, eight years old was too young an age to receive the Eucharist, but St. Gerard Magella could not resign himself to the fact and would weep with such desolation that Heaven itself was moved to pity. One night, Saint Michael approached him, placed a white Host on his tongue like the one the priest had refused to give him, and vanished from sight. The following morning, happy and triumphant, Gerard admitted candidly: "The priest refused me Holy Communion, but last night St. Michael the Archangel brought it to me."



Blessed James of Montieri (Giacomo da Montieri), lived for long periods of time being nourished only by the Eucharist. Jesus Himself gave him Holy Communion on various occasions. An early 16th-century painter depicted the miracle in a well-proportioned picture in which Jesus can be seen giving Holy Communion to Blessed James.



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**D**uring her stay at Proceno, the Dominican Saint Agnes Segni would go into the monastery garden alone to pray near an olive plant. One Sunday morning, she was immersed in prayer from the break of dawn and only after several hours realized that it was a feast day and that she was obliged to attend, attended Mass in the monastery choir. However, an angel of the Lord came bearing an immaculate Host and gave it to her in Holy Communion. This incident was repeated on other occasions as well.



**T**he biographer of Saint Clare of Montefalco recounts in the acts for her canonization process that "one day Clare came up to Holy Communion without her mantle. Sister Giovanna rebuked her harshly, saying to her, 'Go away - I don't want you to receive Holy Communion.' Hearing these words, Clare realized that she was without her mantle and felt such bitter regret that after she returned to her cell, she wept bitterly. And while she was praying amid her tears, Christ appeared to her and, embracing her, gave her Holy Communion, leaving her deeply consoled."



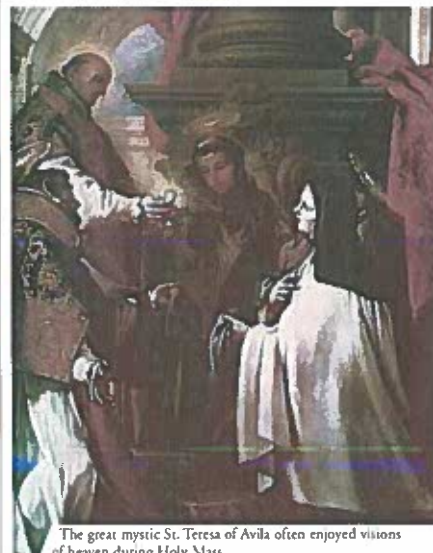
**B**lessed Angela of Foligno recounted that "on one occasion I saw Christ under the guise of a small child, who nevertheless appeared great and majestic, like a king: It seemed that, seated on his throne, he held in his hand something like a symbol of authority [...] Then, when the others knelt down, I did not do so, and I don't know if I ran up close to the altar or if I could not move from sheer delight and contemplation, and I experienced great regret that the priest put the Host back on the altar so quickly."



The painting represents Saint Frances of Rome with some of her companions in ecstatic wonder at the Monstrance from which radiant beams of light emanated (Civic Art Museum)



One of the miraculous Masses of St. Gregory the Great, in which Christ appeared Crucified (Diocesan Museum of Trier)



The great mystic St. Teresa of Avila often enjoyed visions of heaven during Holy Mass