#### **Book 3 Week 1**

**Instructions:** On the other side of the room you should have about 6 empty soda bottles set up like bowling pins for each of the 4 teams. In each soda bottle will be a piece of the mural about their team's Eucharistic miracle. Print off the story for each team as well. Some of the pieces are questions that they can only answer if they have read the story, which is another piece.



## Team 1: Sienna The story

#### Mural piece

EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE MURAL RACE

The second Eucharistic miracle of Sienna, Italy has roots in the 13th

century when special services and festivities were introduced in honor of the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. These observances became traditional and were still conducted at the time of the miracle. So it was that on August 14, 1730, during devotions for the vigil of the feast, while most of the Sienese population and the clergy of the city were attending these services, thieves entered the deserted Church of St. Francis. Taking advantage of the friars' absence, they made for the chapel where the Blessed Sacrament was kept, picked the lock to the tabernacle and carried away the golden ciborium containing consecrated Hosts. The theft went undiscovered until the next morning, when the priest opened the tabernacle at the Communion of the Mass. Then later, when a parishioner found the lid of the ciborium lying in the street, the suspicion of sacrilege was confirmed. The anguish of the parishioners forced the cancellation of the traditional festivities for the feast of Our Lady's Assumption. The Archbishop ordered public prayers of reparation, while the civil authorities began a search for the consecrated Hosts and for the scoundrel who had taken them. Two days later, on August 17, while praying in the Church of St. Mary of Provenzano, a priest's attention was directed to something white protruding from the offering box (box in back of church with money). Realizing that it was a Host, he informed the other priests of the church, who in turn notified the Archbishop and the friars of the Church of St. Francis. When the offering box was opened, in the presence of local priests and the representative of the Archbishop, a large number of Hosts were found, some of them suspended by cobwebs. The Hosts were compared with some unconsecrated ones used in the Church of St. Francis, and proved to be exactly the same size and to have the same mark of the irons upon which they were baked. The number of Hosts corresponded exactly to the number the Franciscan friars had estimated were in the ciborium -- 348 whole Hosts and six halves. Since the offering box was opened but once a year, the Hosts were covered with the dust and debris that had collected there. After being carefully cleaned by the priests, they were enclosed in a ciborium and placed inside the tabernacle of the main altar of the Church of St. Mary. The following day, in the company of a great gathering of townspeople, Archbishop carried the Sacred Hosts in solemn procession back to the Church of St. Francis. The hosts stayed in the church for adoration and people would come to pray. To the amazement of the clergy, the Hosts did not deteriorate over time, but remained fresh and even retained a pleasant scent. With the passage of time the Franciscans became convinced that they were witnessing a continuing miracle of preservation. (The unleaven bread is can disintegrate over time and when the form of the bread disappears, Christ is no longer there. ) Fifty years after the recovery of the stolen Hosts, an official investigation was conducted into the authenticity of the miracle. On April 14, 1780, and upon tasting one of them they found it fresh and incorrupt.



HIGH SCHOOL
WEEKLY ACTIVITY

#### **Eucharistic Miracle Mural Race**

## Team 1: Sienna The story

Mural piece

EUCHARISTIC

MIRACLE

MURAL

RACE

Since a number of the Hosts had been distributed during the preceding years, the Minister General ordered that the remaining 230 particles be placed in a new ciborium and forbade further distribution. A more detailed investigation took place in 1789. After examining the Hosts under a microscope, the commission declared that they were perfectly intact and showed no sign of deterioration. As a test to further confirm the authenticity of the miracle, the Archbishop ordered several unconsecrated hosts to be placed in a sealed box and kept under lock in the chancery office. Ten years later these were examined and found to be not only disfigured, but also withered. In 1850, 61 years after they were placed in a sealed box, these unconsecrated hosts were found reduced to particles of a dark yellow color, while the consecrated Hosts retained their original freshness. Other examinations were made and in 1914, Pope St. Pius X had a distinguished panel of investigators, which included scientists and professors from Italy. Acid and starch tests performed on one of the fragments indicated a normal starch content. The conclusions reached from microscopic tests indicated that the Hosts had been made of roughly sifted wheat flour, which was found to be well preserved. The commission agreed that unleavened bread, if prepared under sterile conditions and kept in an airtight, antiseptically cleaned container, could be kept for an extremely long time. Unleavened bread prepared in a normal fashion and exposed to air and the activity of micro-organisms would remain intact for no more than a few years. It was concluded that the stolen Hosts had been both prepared without scientific precautions and kept under ordinary conditions which should have caused their decay more than a century before. The commission concluded that the preservation was extraordinary, In 1950 the miraculous Hosts were taken from the old ciborium and placed in a more elaborate and costly one, which caught the eye of another thief. Thus, despite the precautions of the clergy, another sacrilegious theft occurred on the night of August 5, 1951. This time the thief was considerate enough to take only the container and left the Hosts in a corner of the tabernacle. After counting 133 Hosts, the Archbishop himself sealed them in a silver ciborium. The miraculously preserved Hosts are displayed publicly on various occasions. Among many distinguished visitors who have adored the Hosts was St. John Bosco. With a unanimous voice, the faithful, priests, bishops, cardinals and popes have marveled at and worshiped the holy Hosts, recognizing in them a permanent miracle, both complete and perfect, that has endured for over 250 years. By this miracle the Hosts have remained whole and shiny, and have maintained the characteristic scent of unleavened bread. Since they are in such a perfect state of conservation, maintaining the appearances of bread, the Catholic Church assures us that although they were consecrated in the year 1730, these Eucharistic Hosts are still really and truly the Body of Christ. The miraculous Hosts have been cherished and venerated in the Basilica of St. Francis in Sienna for over 250 years.



#### CONQUEST

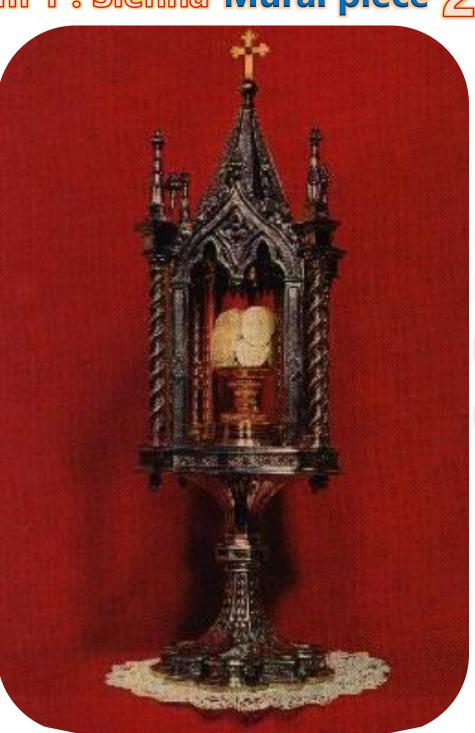
HIGH SCHOOL
WEEKLY ACTIVITY

Eucharistic Miracle Mural Race

Team 1: Sienna Mural piece 2









Team 1: Sienna Mural piece 3

## What happened?



"Every Holy Communion fills us with Jesus.. He made himself the Bread of Life so that we, like Mary, become full of Jesus. like her, be in haste to give him to others. We too, like her, serve others"



Team 1: Sienna Mural piece 4





### Who?

When?

Where?



Team 1: Sienna Mural piece 5



## What was God's message to us?



Team 1: Sienna Mural piece (ති





### How does it show us that Mass is important?



#### HIGH SCHOOL WEEKLY ACTIVITY

#### **Eucharistic Miracle Mural Race**

#### Team 2: Lanciano

#### The story

#### **Mural piece**

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This is the first and greatest Eucharistic Miracle of the Catholic Church. This wondrous event took place in the 8th century in about the year 750 in the little Church of St. Legontian, as a divine response to a Basilian monk's doubt about Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist. During Holy Mass, exactly at the moment of the Consecration, the priest was tormented by strong doubts as to whether the Body and Blood of Jesus were truly present in the consecrated Host. He had just finished the Consecration when he noticed that the Host had been transformed into Flesh and the Wine into Blood. The priest, filled with regret for having doubted, began to weep and seek pardon from God. After 1200 years, the Host-Flesh, as can be very distinctly observed today, has the same dimensions as the large host used today in the Latin church; it is light brown and appears rose-colored when lighted from the back. The Blood is coagulated and has an earthy color resembling the yellow of ochre.

Various ecclesiastical investigation ("Recognitions") were conducted since 1574.

In 1970-'71 and taken up again partly in 1981 there took place a scientific investigation by the most illustrious scientist Prof. Odoardo Linoli, eminent Professor in Anatomy and Pathological Histology and in Chemistry and Clinical Microscopy. The analyses were conducted with absolute and unquestionable scientific precision and they were documented with a series of microscopic photographs. These analyses sustained the following conclusions:

The Flesh is real Flesh.

The Blood is real Blood.

The Flesh and the Blood belong to the human species.

The Flesh consists of the muscular tissue of the heart. In the Flesh we see present in section: the myocardium, the endocardium, the vagus nerve and also the left ventricle of the heart for the large thickness of the myocardium.

The Flesh is a "HEART" complete in its essential structure.

The Flesh and the Blood have the same blood-type: AB (Blood-type identical to that which Prof. Baima Bollone uncovered in the Holy Shroud of Turin).

In the Blood there were found proteins in the same normal proportions (percentage-wise) as are found in the sero-proteic make-up of the fresh normal blood.

In the Blood there were also found these minerals: chlorides, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, sodium and calcium. The preservation of the Flesh and of the Blood, which were left in their natural state for twelve centuries and exposed to the action of atmospheric and biological agents, remains an extraordinary phenomenon. In conclusion, it may be said that Science, when called upon to testify, has given a certain and thorough response as regards the authenticity of the Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano



#### CONQUEST

HIGH SCHOOL WEEKLY ACTIVITY

**Eucharistic Miracle Mural Race** 

Team 2 : Lanciano Mural piece 2





**Year 750** 



Team 2 : Lanciano

Mural piece 3



# What happened?



"The Eucharist is the Sacrament of the Love which conquers death. It is the pure Gift of Love. It is the gift of the Real Presence of Jesus The Redeemer."



Team 2 : Lanciano

Mural piece 4



### Who?

When?

Where?



Team 2: Lanciano

Mural piece 5



## What was God's message to us?



Team 2 : Lanciano

Mural piece 6



# How does it show us that Mass is important?



#### HIGH SCHOOL WEEKLY ACTIVITY

#### **Eucharistic Miracle Mural Race**

## Team 3 : Amsterdam The story Mural piece 1



In 1345, a man who was a devout Catholic became very ill. He told his family he would like to receive Holy Viaticum. (Last Rights and Communion) The family notified the pastor of the Church. The priest, after administering the sacrament, advised the family, if the ill man threw up (which he was known to do after taking nourishment) they were to empty the contents in the fire. The man threw up and the family did what they were advised to do by the priest, they threw the contents in the fire in the sick room. This incident occurred on March 12th.

Early the next morning, one of the women went to rake the fire and she noticed in the middle of the grate, the Blessed Sacrament in the form of host. A light surrounded it. The woman became upset and immediately put her hand in the fire to rescue the host. This she did without any ill effects to herself. She did not burn her hand. The woman was surprised to find the host was cold! She immediately called in a neighbor and asked her to take the Sacred Host to her home. The neighbor took a clean cloth, placed the host on it and locked it in a box. She then took it home. When the husband of the woman who found the host heard what had taken place, he requested to see it. He tried to lift it off the white cloth it rested on but the Sacred Particle resisted as if to say it did not want to be touched by this man's hands.

A priest was then summoned who took the host and placed it in a pyx. When he went to wash the cloth which held the Blessed Sacrament and return it to the original box, he noticed the pyx was upset and the host was gone!

The next morning the neighbor returned for her original box and cloth. When she opened the locked box she once again found the Sacred Host in it! There was then no doubt that Our Lord wanted this miracle to made known! The priest notified the clergy of Amsterdam and a procession was held to carry the host to the church.

The home of the sick man soon became a chapel and as early as 1360 public processions and pilgrims traveled to the site of the miracle.

On May 25, 1452, a large conflagration broke out which left three fourths of the city in ruins. It was during this time, the chapel known as the Holy Room became subject to the flames. Strangely, the monstrance containing the Miraculous Host, (which had been brought over to the chapel from the old church) was spared. In 1456, a new Holy Room was built surrounded by a beautiful church. Many pilgrims went to visit the shrine seeking cures and spiritual help. One pilgrim, archduke Maximilian, later a Roman Emperor, came seeking a cure in 1480. God heard his prayer and he was cured. In thanksgiving, the archduke dedicated a beautiful window to the Holy Room. By the second half of the sixteenth century, Catholics in Amsterdam fell under persecution of the Protestants. The Holy Room fell under Protestant rule. In 1910, rather than sell the property to the Catholics, the chapel was torn down. However, devotion to this Eucharistic Miracle still takes place on March 12th at the church nearest the site.



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#### **Eucharistic Miracle Mural Race**

## Team 3 : Amsterdam Mural piece 2





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Team 3 : Amsterdam
Mural piece 3



# What happened?



"The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak."



Team 3 : Amsterdam

Mural piece 4



### Who?

When?

Where?



Team 3 : Amsterdam

Mural piece 5



## What was God's message to us?



Team 3: Amsterdam

Mural piece 6



# How does it show us that Mass is important?



#### HIGH SCHOOL WEEKLY ACTIVITY

#### **Eucharistic Miracle Mural Race**

## **Team 4: India The story**

**Mural piece** 

MIRACLE MURAL RACE

This Eucharistic Miracle took place recently, on May 5, 2001 at Trivandrum. In the consecrated Host, the face of a man resembling Christ crowned with thorns appeared. Father Johnson Karoor, pastor of the church where the Miracle occurred, recounts in his report: "On April 28, 2001, in the parish church of St. Mary at Chirattakonam, we began, as we do each year, our Novena to St. Jude Thaddeus. At 8:49 in the morning, I exposed the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance and began a time for public adoration. After a few minutes, I saw three marks on the Holy Eucharist. At that point, I stopped praying and began to look at the monstrance, inviting the faithful also to wonder at the three marks. I then asked the faithful to remain praying and then put the monstrance back inside the tabernacle. On April 30, I celebrated Holy Mass and the day after I departed for Trivandrum. After returning, on May 5, 2001, I opened the church for the regular Masses, I prepared myself and I went to open the tabernacle to see what had happened to the Eucharistic host of the monstrance, and I at once noticed in it a figure resembling a human face. I was very moved and asked the faithful to kneel down and begin to pray. I thought that it was only I who had seen the face, and then I asked the altar boy what he observed in the monstrance. He answered, 'I see the figure of a man.' I noticed that the rest of the faithful also gazed intently at the monstrance. We began the Adoration and as the minutes passed by, the figure of the man became more clearly defined. I did not have the courage to say anything, and I began to cry. During the time of adoration, we had the custom of reading a passage from Sacred Scripture. The passage which fell upon me that day was the one from Chapter 20 of St. John's Gospel, which recounts the episode when the Risen Jesus appeared to St. Thomas and asked him to look upon His wounds. I managed to say only a few words in my homily, and as I had to celebrate Holy Mass at the neighboring parish of Kokkodu, I arranged for a photographer to come at once to take a picture of the Holy Eucharist with the human face inside it. The photographs were developed in two hours, and in every photo, the face appeared ever more clear." His Blessedness Cyril Mar Baselice, Archbishop of Trivandrum, wrote regarding this Miracle: "[...] For us believers, what we saw is something we have always believed [...] If Our Lord is speaking to us by giving us this sign, this most surely requires a response on our part." The monstrance containing the Miraculous Host is still preserved in the church.



Team 4 : India
Mural piece 2







2001



Team 4 : India
Mural piece 3



# What happened?



"To survive a man needs to be nourished by Divine Life. That is done in the sacrament of the Eucharist."
-Fulton J. Sheen





**Team 4: India** 

Mural piece 4



### Who?

When?

Where?



**Team 4: India** 

Mural piece

5



## What was God's message to us?



Team 4 : India

Mural piece 6



# How does it show us that Mass is important?