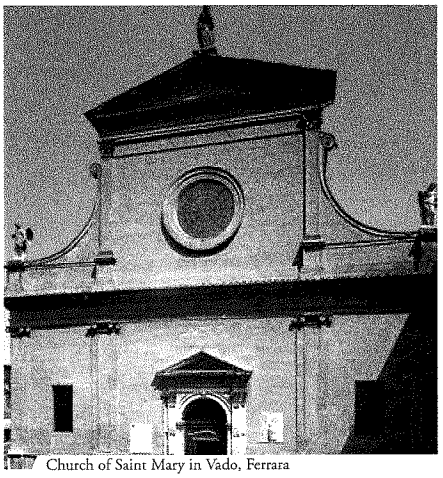
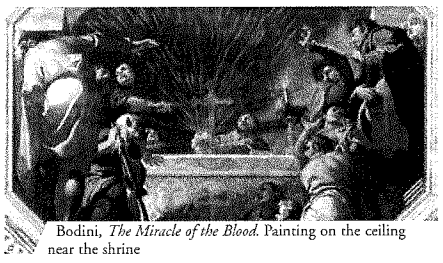
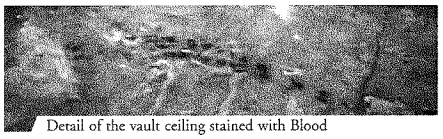
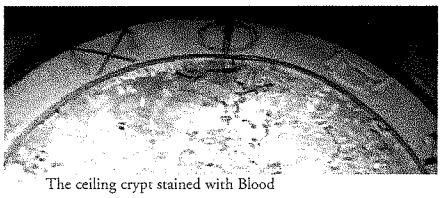
Eucharistic Miracle of
FERRARA
ITALY, 1171

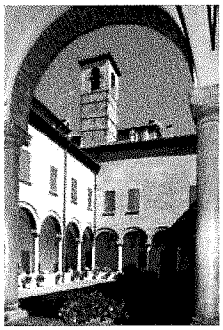
This Eucharistic miracle took place in Ferrara, in the Basilica of Saint Mary in Vado, on Easter Sunday, March 28, 1171. While celebrating Easter Mass, Father Pietro da Verona, the prior of the basilica, reached the moment of breaking the consecrated Host. At this point he saw that Blood gushed from the Host, staining the ceiling of the crypt above the altar with droplets. In 1595 the crypt was enclosed within a small shrine and is still visible today in the monumental Basilica of Santa Maria in Vado.

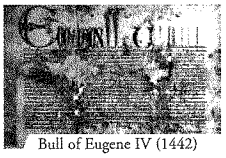

Church of Saint Mary in Vado, Ferrara

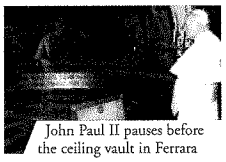

Bodini, *The Miracle of the Blood.* Painting on the ceiling near the shrine

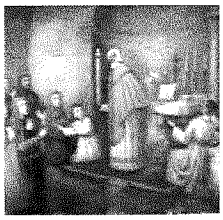

Detail of the vault ceiling stained with Blood

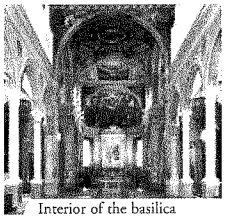

The ceiling crypt stained with Blood

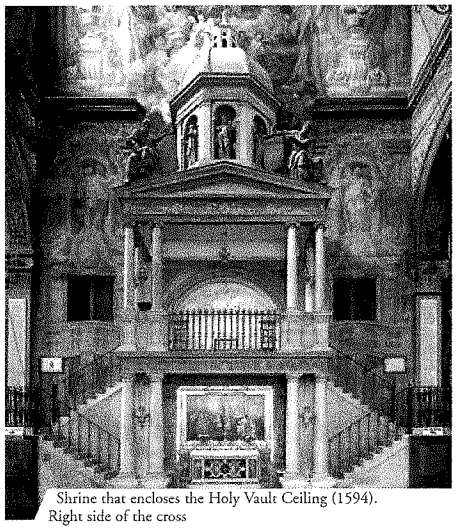



Bull of Eugene IV (1442)


John Paul II pauses before the ceiling vault in Ferrara




Interior of the basilica


Shrine that encloses the Holy Vault Ceiling (1594). Right side of the cross

On March 28, 1171, the prior of the Canons Regular Portuensi, Father Pietro da Verona, was celebrating Easter Mass with three confreres (Bono, Leonardo and Aimone). At the moment of the breaking of the consecrated Host, Blood gushed forth from the Host and threw large drops on the ceiling of the small crypt above the altar. Histories tell of the "holy fear of the celebrant and of the immense wonder of the people who crowded the tiny church." There were many eyewitnesses who told of seeing the Host take on a Bloody color and having seen in the Host the figure of a Baby. Bishop Amato of Ferrara and Archbishop Gherardo of Ravenna were immediately informed of the event. They witnessed with their own eyes the miracle, namely "the Blood which we saw redden the ceiling of the crypt." The church immediately became a pilgrim destination, and later was rebuilt and expanded on the orders of Duke Ercole d'Este beginning in 1495.

There are many sources regarding this miracle. Among the most important is the Bull of Pope Eugene IV (March 30, 1442), in which the pontiff mentions the miracle in reference to the testimonies of the faithful and ancient historical sources. The 1197 manuscript of Gerardo Cambrense, conserved in Canterbury's Lambeth Library is the oldest document that mentions the miracle. The miracle received recent attention in the "Gemma Ecclesiastica" (Budding of the Church) by historian Antonio Samaritani. Another document which dates to March 6, 1404, is the Bull of Cardinal Migliorati, in which he grants indulgences to "those who visit the church and adore the Miraculous Blood." Even today, on the 28th day of every month in the basilica, which is currently under the care of Saint Gaspare del Bufalo's Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood, Eucharistic Adoration is celebrated in memory of the miracle. And every year, in preparation for the Feast of Corpus Christi, the solemn Forty Hours devotion is celebrated. The eighth centenary of the miracle was celebrated in 1971.