

November 2024 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Arlington-our Golden Jubilee!! We now begin Year 1 of preparation for our Jubilee. Theme for Year 1: "Do this in Memory of Me."

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## Eucharistic Miracle of Avignon, France 1433



The 1433 Eucharistic Miracle of Avignon, France had its beginnings in 1226 when King Louis VIII (father to St. Louis IX) had a church built in Avignon, France to honor the Blessed Sacrament. On the Feast of the Holy Cross, September 14, 1226, he called for perpetual Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in response to the Albigensian movement. The heresy condemned all sacraments, especially marriage, promoted promiscuity and encouraged suicide. Most offensively, they vehemently denied the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. King Louis VIII's intent was to make reparation for the sacrilege committed by the heretical movement. Within 3 years of the Perpetual Adoration, Albigensian activity sharply declined.

For 200 years, the Blessed Sacrament was worshipped in Perpetual Adoration at the Church of the Holy Cross in Avignon. Then, on November 30, 1433, after days of heavy rain, the Sorgue and Rhone Rivers overflowed causing massive flooding. The Grey Penitents of the Franciscan Order were concerned for the exposed Eucharist. Two superiors made their way to the Church of the Holy Cross by boat. When they arrived, they were dismayed to see that the water had risen halfway up the entrance of the church. They maneuvered the door open and were astonished to see that the water was parted down the middle of the church. The altar and the Blessed Sacrament were completely dry. Though the water continued to rise along the sides of the church, the middle remained free from water. The friars were reminded of the Biblical account of the parting of the Red Sea and believed the miracle to represent that God frees His people from the slavery of sin.

The two Franciscans gathered witnesses to verify the miracle. It is documented that several hundred people observed the phenomenon, including church officials. The Grey Penitents began a tradition of commemorating the miracle every year on November 30, the Feast Day of St. Andrew the Apostle.

"Let us keep our gaze fixed lovingly on the divine Victim being immolated on the altar. And let us allow ourselves to be immolated at the same time. Weeping before the altars that are the object of indifference or profanation, may we love and make up for the coldness of those who do not know how to return love for love," ~ Marie-Deluil Martiny, Mother Mary of Jesus, foundress of the Daughters of the Heart of Jesus

**\*View the display of the Miracle of [Ausburg, Germany](#) in the vestibule.**

**\*Please pick up a [Treasures of the Catholic Church Eucharistic Miracles](#) brochure in the vestibule**