

November 2024 is the 50th 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."



Eucharistic Miracle of Gorkum-El Escorial, Netherlands/Spain 1572

Protestants rebelled against the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century due to the corruption in the Church. Ulrich Zwingli, Martin Luther and John Calvin introduced teachings that were discordant with the True Faith. There was no consensus on their teachings and so different Protestant sects formed as a result.

The Catholic Church recognized that, though it was good to call out corruption, the teachings of Zwingli, Luther and Calvin deviated from the Truth and were heretical. The Protestants were angry for being condemned as heretical and a lasting struggle ensued. Protestants, in retaliation, desecrated Catholic churches.

At one time, the area we now call the Netherlands, which included other territories in Europe, was controlled by Spain. King Phillip II fought hard to keep all the territories Catholic and to repress Calvinism. Prince William of England, who held a political office in the Dutch Republic of Orange, joined the revolt against Spanish rule in the Netherlands. Prince William paid a band of "Sea Beggars" to conquer Catholic territories.

In 1572, these Protestant rebels stormed a Catholic church in Gorkum, Holland, desecrated the church and violated the altar. One of the invaders stepped on the Sacred Host and split it into three pieces. His boot had spikes that pierced the Blessed Sacrament. Blood began to drip from the wounds of the Host. One of the rebels who participated in profaning the church, was instantly remorseful. He hastened to inform the Canon Jean van der Delft, who managed to keep the miraculous Host safe amid the years of continued uprising.

In 1594, the relic was given to King Phillip II. He placed the Miraculous Host in the care of the Royal Monastery of San Lorenzo in El Escorial, Spain where it remains today in a tabernacle above the altar.

On September 29, and October 28 every year, there is exposition and a solemn procession of the Miraculous Host, called the "Sagrada Forma" (Sacred Form).

"I desire to unite Myself to human souls. Know, My daughter, that when I come to a human heart in Holy Communion, My hands are full of all kinds of graces which I want to give to the soul. But souls do not even pay any attention to Me; they leave Me to Myself and busy themselves with other things...They treat Me as a dead object"
~ Jesus' words to St. Faustina from the *Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (1385)*

***View the display of the Miracle of Gorkum-El Escorial, Netherlands/Spain in the vestibule.**

***Please pick up a Treasures of the Catholic Church Eucharistic Miracles brochure in the vestibule.**