

Eucharistic Miracle of BREDA-NIERVAART

NETHERLANDS, 1300



The Eucharistic miracle of Breda-Niervaart occurred on June 24, 1300. At the time, the Netherlands was occupied by Spanish army troops, and during a pillage a soldier stole a consecrated Host, which was found a short while later by a farmer named Jan Bautoen. The Sacred Host was hidden under a lump of dirt and was in perfect condition. One of the most authoritative and complete documents describing the events connected with this miracle is the investigation conducted by the Bishop of Link. Traces of the miracle remain in the church's paintings as well as in the documents.



Collegiate Church of Our Lady, Breda



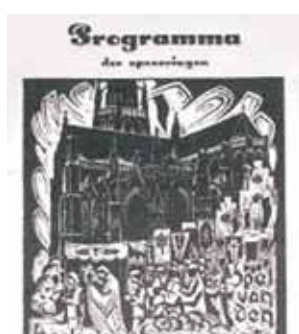
Interior of the church



The procession held every year to honor the miracle



Artistic monstrance in which the miraculous Host is carried, Breda



Banner depicting the finding of the miraculous Host



With the kind permission of the Meertens Institute

On June 24, 1300, a farmer named Jan Bautoen was hoeing a plot of land near the village of Niervaart. As he lifted a clod of earth, he found a completely intact Host, which he immediately gave to the pastor of the village of Niervaart. The Host was placed in a precious container, and despite the passage of time, one could see that the species of the bread remained intact. News quickly spread among the people, who began to venerate the Sacred Host. In 1449 the Holy Eucharist was moved to the Collegiate Church of Our Lady of Breda, and an artistic monstrance was made in which to preserve the Blessed Sacrament.

During the religious conflicts, all traces of the miraculous Host were lost, even though devotion to this Eucharistic miracle was

kept alive by the people. After various ups and downs, veneration was solemnly restored in the 20th century by a confraternity in Breda dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament. To this day, processions and public prayers are held each year in honor of the miracle.



The relic of the miraculous Host is carried in procession (1535), Sacred Museum of Breda