Eucharistic Miracle of

## PONFERRADA

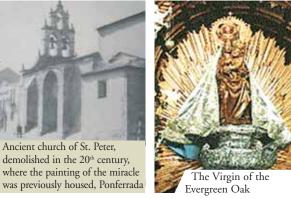
SPAIN, 1533

In the Miracle of Ponferrada, Juan De Benavente decided to steal the tabernacle containing a precious silver ciborium with numerous consecrated Hosts inside from his very own parish. With only the passing of time and miraculous circumstances the recovery of the stolen Hosts, which remained perfectly intact, was made possible.



Painting that depicts the miracle, currently housed in the new church of St. Peter







Ponferrada



Exact sight where the Hosts where found



Sil River, near the Arenal Field, where Juan de Benavento wanted to throw the tabernacle containing the Hosts



Church of St. Mary where the miracle took place, Ponferrada

uan De Benavente lived in Ponferrada with his wife. It was apparent that he was very devout and religious. In fact every evening he stopped in church to pray. One day, during his prayer time, he succumbed to greed and seized the tabernacle, a simple wooden container, in which there was a precious silver ciborium containing some consecrated Hosts. He fled from the church and headed towards the Sil River in order to pitch the cheap wooden tabernacle, but when he tried to launch it into the water he could not because of its sudden immense weight. So he returned home where he hid everything and said nothing to his wife. During the night continuous flashes of light came from the tabernacle arousing the suspicion of his wife. So Juan decided to go out and dispose of his sacrilegious stolen goods. He reached a place the townspeople called the

Arenal Field and threw the tabernacle and consecrated Hosts into the middle of the blackberry patch. The discovery of the crime brought dismay among all of the population and Juan became increasingly nervous and anxious, also because he did not know how to sell the silver ciborium without getting caught.

Near the Arenal Field,

into the blackberry patch discovering the tabernacle and the sacred Hosts from where the intense flashes of light originated. Shook up, he went straight towards the church where the bells were ringing in the distance. The return of the sacred Hosts was organized via a solemn procession. Juan was overcome with remorse and decided to plead guilty. In the place of the recovery of the

the owner of the land, Diego Nuñez de Losada, conset up a target practice for entertainment during the feast days. During the time frame in which sol the sacred Hosts were still in the blackberry the patch, eyewitness reported seeing flashes of milight at night and strange doves hovering during the day. The crossbowmen tried in vain to hit the doves. The miller Nogaledo decided then to capture the doves with his hands and ventured

miraculous Hosts a chapel was immediately constructed. In 1570 the parish priest planned the expansion of the building and instituted a solemn annual procession on the eighth day of the Feast of Corpus Christi in memory of the miracle.