

Miraculous Phenomena in the Catholic Church

An Overview

By Marilyn Hughes

The Out-of-Body Travel Foundation!

<http://outofbodytravel.org>



St. Margaret Mary having a Vision of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

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Transverberation

Also known as Mystical Hearts

Not as well known to Catholics as some other miraculous events, the Transverberation is a spiritual wounding of the heart.

Saints were sometimes rewarded by God for loving Him so much that they offered the Lord total dominion over their heart. Many famous saints, including several Doctors of the Church, experienced different forms of the transverberation, which could come in the form of mystical vision, a physical wounding of the heart by a dart or a flame of love. In one very rare instance, that of **St. Veronica Giuliani**, the imprint of the cross was actually made upon the heart of a saint, and after her death this heart and the image upon it has been preserved.

St. John of the Cross – Doctor of the Church

In *Living Flame of Love*, St. John of the Cross explains this wounding of the heart. “It will happen while the soul is inflamed with the love of God. It will feel that a seraphim is assailing it by means of an arrow or dart which is all afire with love.”

St. Teresa of Avila – Doctor of the Church

The best known case of transverberation occurred with St. Teresa of Avila around 1582. Describing a short angels who was very beautiful and who appeared to be one of the highest kinds of angels who appeared to her as all on fire, she said, "In his hand I saw a long golden spear and at the end of the iron tip I seemed to see a point of fire." He pierced her heart so many times that she described it as feeling as though it went through her entire abdominal cavity. She described the aftermath as one of complete fire for the love of God, but the pain was so intense, she was making audible moaning.

The heart was removed from St. Teresa of Avila's body during an exhumation, and in 1872 was studied by three doctors at the University of Salamanca. The perforation caused by the fiery dart was noted, and the doctors agreed that the heart could not be preserved by any natural or chemical means. It was completely incorrupt and is kept at the convents of the Carmelite reform.

St. Therese of Lisieux – Doctor of the Church

St. Therese only explained this event on her deathbed to her sister Pauline. In her description, she stated that she had been praying the stations of the cross when it happened. Very suddenly, she felt herself wounded by a dart of fire that she actually believed

she was going to die. But, she told her sister Pauline, it was a fire of pain and love at the same time.

Others who Experienced the Transverberation

Other saints who were known to have experienced the transverberation were St. Padre Pio, Sister Mary Martha Chambon, Ven. Maria Villani of Naples, St. Lutgarde, St. Charles of Sezze, St. Clare of Montefalco, St. Veronica Giuliani, St. Catherine of Siena, Ven. Dominia A Paradiso, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Michael of the Saints, Blessed Margaret of Citta Di Castello, St. Gerard Majella, St. Joseph of Cupertino, St. Philip Neri, St. Paul of the Cross, St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane Francis de Chantal

The Gift of Prophecy

Saints who Displayed Special Knowledge of Coming Events

Prophecy in the lives of the Catholic Saints was usually related on a personal level regarding the lives of individual people, rather than world events.

Prophecies of this nature were often regarding a person's vocation, their time of death, the knowledge of the safety of those lost at sea, the fore-knowledge of whether a person at the point of death would or would not recover, etc.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux 1153

St. Bernard displayed this gift of prophecy regarding King Louis VI of France, who was in disagreement with local bishops and the Pope over a small issue and refused to resolve it. St. Bernard knew interiorly that King Louis VI's position was not in concert with the will of God and saw into the future. In a quiet and somber voice, he said, "Expect the chastisement which your crime deserves. Your eldest son will be taken away – he will die an early death." Two years later, Prince Philip – at the age of sixteen – was killed in a horse accident.

St. Dominic 1221

St. Dominic was preaching to the people of Segovia who were under a long spell of drought and famine. As he was speaking, he suddenly stopped. When he again spoke, he said, "Fear nothing, my brethren, but trust in the Divine mercy. I announce to you good news, for today God will send you a plentiful rain and the drought shall be turned into plenty." There were no signs of such rain in the sky, but the crowds accepted his words and continued to listen to his sermon. At the end of his sermon, the rain began falling so powerfully that some people had difficulty getting home. The drought was over and plenty did again come to reign in the land.

St. Anthony of Padua 1231

There were many prophecies associated with St. Anthony of Padua but one especially bearing repeating. There was a sinful and violent notary who lived at Puy-en-Velay. Whenever St. Anthony met him on the street, he would bow to the notary in great respect. One day, the notary who suspected that St. Anthony was making fun of him got angry and threatened to kill him with a sword if the mocking did not stop.

St. Anthony, however, related to the notary "O my brother! You do not know the honor in store for you. I envy your happiness. I longed for the martyr's palm, but the Lord denied it to me. But He has revealed to

me that this grace is reserved for you.” Eventually, the notary was converted from his previous life and did die a martyr’s death just as predicted.

Others Known to Demonstrate the Gift of Prophecy

Others who also were known to have gifts of prophecy included St. Benedict, Blessed Conrad of Ascoli, Blessed Margaret of Castello, St. Francis of Rome, St. Colette, St. Francis of Paola, St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, St. Martin de Porres, St. Joseph of Cupertino, St. Gerard Majella, St. Paul of the Cross, Blessed Anna Maria Taigi, St. Anthony Mary Claret, St. John Bosco, St. Therese of the Child Jesus, St. Gemma Galgani, Brother Andre and Saint Padre Pio.

The Spiritual Gift of Invisibility

Saints who Became Invisible in the Presence of
Witnesses

Many Catholic Saints had the ability to become invisible to perform works of charity or to engage in private prayer when the crowds would not leave.

Most of the time, this phenomenon occurs so that a saint may disappear from a crowd to perform a work of charity or to pray privately when the crowds of people just won't give the saint the necessary privacy.

St. Francis of Paola 1507

St. Francis of Paola was known as 'The Miracle Worker' during his lifetime because he possessed many profound miraculous gifts. While visiting the governor of Bormes, St. Francis of Paola left the palace to proceed to the city gates and leave with his companions. But crowds of people swarmed around him. According to historical reports, the people all wanted to tear a piece of his habit off of his body. And as they did, the pieces miraculously filled back in. But after this had gone on for quite some time, St. Francis of Paola, uncomfortable with the adoring crowd, just disappeared. He was found some time

later by his companions outside the city gate waiting to proceed on their trip.

St. Gerard Majella 1755

One day in the monastery, St. Gerard Majella had received permission to enter into a day of retreat, contemplation and prayer in his cell. An hour or so later, his superior needed his help and sent another brother to go get him. But when he arrived, St. Gerard Majella was nowhere to be found. This happened several times as everyone in the monastery searched every nook and cranny to find him. They finally realized that St. Gerard would most assuredly show up at Holy Communion so they waited to see him then. As expected, at the time Holy Communion was to be celebrated, he immediately became visible again and got up to attend Mass.

Father Paul of Moll 1896

Known as 'The Wonder-Worker of the Nineteenth Century,' a book has been written about this little known man who was considered a saint in his own time but has not yet been canonized – *Father Paul of Moll (1824 – 1896)*, By Edward van Speybroeck. In Thielt, a working woman experienced on more than one occasion observing Father Paul praying inside the church. Each time, she would see him for a time and then he would simply disappear. When she wrote to him to ask if she had actually seen him praying in the

church and then disappearing, he replied with a simple, "Yes."

Others Known to Have the Spiritual Gift of Invisibility

As it is an unusual gift, not many were known to have it. Among them known were St. Clement Mary Hofbauer and St. Martin de Porres.

Multiplication of Food

Saints who Repeated the New Testament Miracle

Although the multiplication of food in the Gospels is well known, it is a lesser known mystery that many Catholic saints were able to produce a similar miracle.

But it was not only in the New Testament, but the Old, wherein food was multiplied by God to sustain His chosen ones. The Prophet Elias, when directed to stay and live with a widow and her son who were near out of food, not only healed her son of a sickness which would have been unto death, but the little food they had multiplied for months until the draught passed, sparing the Prophet Elias and the family, as well.

St. Isidore the Farmer 1130

St. Isidore was born and raised a poor boy and developed compassion for not only humankind but for creatures. A report was made that one day while bringing a sack of corn from the fields to be ground, he noticed a large migration of birds which were obviously starving and hungry. In the presence of many witnesses, he poured out half of the sack of corn for the birds while shocked onlookers observed the bag continuing to refill itself. When the bag arrived at the farm to be ground, witnesses said that it produced twice the flour of a usual bag of corn.

St. Benedict 543

St. Benedict was known for his charity to the poor and always gave from the store of food saved for the monks to the poor people who came to their doors. When asked what the monks would do if they ran out, which they had come close to on occasion, St. Benedict made reply, "Divine Providence intends to supply the needs not only of the monks but also of the guests and the many poor who daily knock at the door of the monastery."

Only five loaves of bread remained, St. Benedict's generosity had exhausted their supplies, but the saint continued to insist that the community have faith in the providence of God. It is written that he spoke to the monks, "Why are you saddened at the lack of a little bread? Why do you not rather put greater trust in God? He treats us according to the measure of our faith. Today your faith is small and bread scarce. But console yourself; tomorrow you shall have in abundance."

Two hundred sacks of flour appeared on the doorsteps of the monastery the following morning. After the monks searched and searched the countryside and the town for whom it could have come from, they realized that no one had given it. They remembered the words of St. Benedict and realized God had provided it Himself.

Several sacks were kept as relics of this miracle, but were later burned in a fire.

Others Known to have Multiplied Food

Others who were also known to have Multiplied Food included St. Dominic, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Francis of Rome, St. Colette, St. Gerard Majella, St. Francis of Paola, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Mary Magdalene De'Pazzi, St. Rose of Lima, St. Francis Regis, St. Jean Marie Baptiste Vianney, St. Andrew Hubert Fournet, St. Zita, St. Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, St. John Bosco, Blessed Anna Maria Taigi, St. Philip Benizi, Blessed Alvarez of Cordova, St. John Cantius, St. Paul of the Cross, Blessed John Liccio, St. Rita of Cascia and Blessed Peter of Tiferno.

Miraculous Transport

Saints who Arrived at their Destination through Extraordinary Means

Unusual speeds, unlikely vehicles, arriving at destinations without being aware that travel has occurred are all hallmarks of Miraculous Transport miracles.

Bilocation is a phenomenon associated with a saint being in two places at the same time, whereas Miraculous Transport involves unusual forms of travel.

St. Ammon the Great 350

St. Athanasius relates a story of St. Ammon the Great who was traveling with Theodore, a disciple. The two had come across a river that had risen so high that they would have to swim across it. Separating in order to undress, St. Ammon was feeling uncomfortable with this lack of modesty. But before he had a chance to even think about it, he looked up and found he had been miraculously transported to the other side the river. When the disciple asked him how he had done this, St. Ammon finally told him it had been a miracle but asked that he not retell this story until after his death.

St. Dominic (Founder of the Dominicans) 1221

In the company of a Cistercian monk, St. Dominic and he arrived at a church where St. Dominic had hoped to pray before the altar for the night. But when they had come, the church doors were closed and locked. Accepting that they would not get in, St. Dominic and his companion resigned themselves to praying before the church instead and fell to their knees in prayer. Within moments, they were miraculously transported inside the church before the high altar where they prayed for the remainder of the night.

St. Hyacinth 1257

St. Hyacinth had a profound love of the Blessed Virgin and often had received requests from her in visions. When the Tartars were close enough by that a convent was at risk of being destroyed, St. Hyacinth rushed into the church to gather up the Blessed Sacrament and hide it so that it would not be desecrated. He heard the voice of the Blessed Virgin telling him not to leave her statue behind to be desecrated, either. But it was a very large and heavy statue and St. Hyacinth knew that under any normal conditions, he would not be able to lift it. She told him, "I will lighten the load." Picking up the huge statue in one hand easily, he escaped with both and walked across the Dneiper River with them.

There are at least two other instances in the life St. Hyacinth where he is said to have walked on water. Witnessed by over 400 people, St. Hyacinth was going

to preach at Wisgrade and had to cross the Vistula. Three companions were with him and the waters were so rough that the boats refused to go out due to storms and weather. According to reports, St. Hyacinth made the sign of the cross and began to walk as if he were on 'firm land.' The multitude on the other side of the bank saw him do this.

A similar story is related of him in Russia later in his life.

Others who Experienced Miraculous Transports

Others who were known to have had Miraculous Transports included St. Seraphim of Montegranaro, St. Anthony of Padua, Blessed Bentivorgia de Bonis, Pere Lamy, St. Colette, St. Germaine Cousin, St. Martin De Porres, St. John Joseph of the Cross, St. Paul of the Cross, St. Anthony Mary Claret, St. Peter Regalado, St. Peter of Alcantara, Blessed Catherine of Racconigi.

Saints Known to Have Ridden in Unusual Vessels

St. Gerard Majella in 1755 produced an extraordinary miracle of this kind. At the seashore of Naples, a huge ship could be seen in the distance which was about to capsize. Many people were screaming. St. Gerard Majella made the sign of the cross and shouted, "In the name of the Most Holy Trinity, pause!" Throwing his mantle into the water, he rode it out to the

foundering ship and with his own hand stabilized and dragged it back to shore.

Others who also produced Extraordinary Vessels included St. Francis Solano, St. Francis of Paola, St. Raymond of Penaford, Blessed Alvarex of Cordova and Blessed Jane of Signa.

The Odor of Sanctity

Saints who Emanated the Scents of Roses and Incense

Holy Saints who emitted the Odors of Sanctity are said to have emitted the aroma of virtue.

It was Pope Benedict XIV who in his work written in 1758, *De Beatificatione et Canonizatione*, defined this phenomenon now known as the Odor of Sanctity. The primary consideration regarding this phenomenon is that it must be both sweet and persistent, and there can be no other rational explanation as to another source from which it may be coming. Despite this definition of the miraculous phenomenon, the perfumed scents of the saints were mentioned in all the way back to the early church.

Blessed Mary of Oignies

Married against her wishes at the age of fourteen, Blessed Mary of Oignies was able to obtain the consent of her husband to live a celibate life and she set out to take care of lepers in her own home, a calling which her husband gave her great assistance. It was a priest who had discovered his vocation to be such through the example of Blessed Mary of Oignies who wrote about this phenomenon in her:

“When the frost was so severe as to turn all the water into ice, she gave off a warmth so that sometimes she

even perspired, and her clothes were scented with a sweet aromatic fragrance. Oftentimes also the smell of her clothes was like the smell of incense, while prayers were ascending from the thurible of her heart."

St. Teresa of Avila

Having experienced many miraculous phenomenon, it is no surprise that St. Teresa of Avila – the First Female Doctor of the Church – also was known to be surrounded in a very pleasing fragrance and aroma throughout her life.

But St. Teresa of Avila was actually more interested in one of her contemporaries at the time, **Catalina De Cardona**, a Spanish Ascetic, who instigated so many reports of emanating such a powerful perfume that she was unable to protect herself from the crowds who swarmed to see her and to smell it. In order to escape those crowds, Catalina would cut off pieces of her habit and give it to them so they would allow her through. St. Teresa of Avila witnessed and spoke of many other witnesses who said the smell of perfume upon her was so profound that it permeated everything she wore and her cincture, as well.

Others who Bore the Odor of Sanctity

Others who historically were known to emit such perfumes and incenses included St. Benedict, St. Valery, St. Hermann, Blessed Ida of Louvain, St.

Lydwyn of Schiedam, Blessed John Baptist da
Fabriano, Ven. Dominica of Paradiso, St. Catherine
Dei Ricci, St. Joseph of Cupertino, Ven. Joan Marie of
the Cross of Rovereto, Blessed Mary of the Angels, St.
Veronica Giuliani, St. Gerard Majella, St. Paul of the
Cross, St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds, St.
Anthony Mary Claret, Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified,
Father Paul of Moll, Ven. Marie Celine of the
Presentation and St. Padre Pio.

Levitation

Saints who Miraculously Rose from the Ground in Prayer

Some saints who experienced Levitation explained that they also felt a Rapture at the same time as they were lifted off the ground.

Many saints have been reported to rise above the ground, some by a little and other by a great deal, during the celebration of the Holy Mass or other prayer times in private. St. Teresa of Avila described her experience of levitation by saying that it comes upon you “like a strong, swift impulse, before your thought can forewarn you of it or you can do anything to help yourself; you see and feel this cloud, or this powerful eagle, rising and bearing you up with it on its wings.”

St. Joseph of Cupertino

A saint who experienced so many levitations it became necessary to restrict his access to the choir and refectory so as not to cause disturbances during Mass, St. Joseph of Cupertino was an unlikely saint who became very holy. His own family considered him to be an idiot, and didn't believe he would make it through the seminary. Eventually, with the help of God, he did. But because of his lower intellect, he was still kept to tend the pigs and sheep in the stables. St.

Joseph loved this, and it was in this hay-filled barn this levitations are believed to have begun to take place when he would pray before a broken statue of Mary he had taken into the stable.

But St. Joseph of Cupertino was known to levitate to the height of the pulpit and more during the consecration at the altar. In order to test him, other monks actually chained him to the ground with heavy armor. This still did not deter the gifts of the Holy Spirit within him as he lifted up and the chains were ripped from the concrete floor in which they had been embedded.

Blessed Margaret of Castello

Profoundly disfigured from birth, Blessed Margaret of Castello was a dwarf, blind, hunchback and lame. Her parents deserted her shortly after visiting a shrine known for its miraculous healings, when their daughter was not healed. Devoting her life to prayer, she was a Dominican Tertiary and took care of prisoners, the sick and dying. A story is related of one instance, although there were many, wherein St. Margaret of Castello was praying for a man in prison inside his cell. She began to rise above the ground to about 20 inches in her prayer, completely oblivious to all around her. It was said that her face was transformed to a glorious radiance.

The man who was an ardent sinner tried to deny what he had seen and continue his blasphemous

ways, but as she descended from prayer he could only beg her prayers for his soul.

Others who Levitated

Others who levitated during their holy lives included St. Teresa of Avila, Ven. Maria Villani, St. Gerard Majella, St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Father Paul of Moll, St. Martin de Porres, St. Gemma Galgani, St. Paul of the Cross, Ven. Dominic of Jesu Mari, Blessed Thomas of Corsi, Ven. Mary of Agreda, Passitea Crogi, Bl. Mary of Jesus Crucified, Sr. Maria of the Passion, St. Francis of Paola, St. Agnes of Montepulciano, Bl. Clara of Rimini, St. Francis of Posadas, St. John Joseph of the Cross, St. John of St. Facond, St. Francis Xavier, St. Lutgarde of Aywieres, St. Dominic, St. Philip Neri, Bl. Flora of Beaulieu, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Jean Marie Baptiste Vianney, St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Rose of Viterbo and St. Rita of Cascia

Bilocation

Saints who were in Two Places at the Same Time

Bilocation has been reported in the lives of many saints by many credible sources throughout time.

Although a controversial gift of the Holy Spirit, many instances of bilocation have been reported by valid witnesses in both locations where the saint was seen to behave and act normally at the same time as the other sighting.

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori

On the morning of September 21, 1774, St. Alphonsus fell into an ecstasy after saying Mass. He had thrown himself in an armchair and became immediately absorbed in thought, quiet, still and silent. This went on for quite some time wherein the saint showed no signs of life. Awaking sometime late in the morning on September 22, he immediately made mention that he wished to say the Mass.

Everybody was astonished and explained to him that he had showed no signs of life for almost a day and a half. But St. Alphonsus de Liguori explained that although this was the case, he had been in Rome assisting Pope Clement who had just died. Just a little bit later, they found out that indeed Pope Clement had just passed away. He had died at the exact

moment that St. Alphonsus de Liguori's ecstasy had ended.

St. Gerard Majella

Bilocation occurred with St. Gerard Majella on many occasions, not just one. One instance, he had been waiting to receive word about a particular affair in a city called Muro. He said, "I must go there." The following day, although he was said to have never left the monastery, he was seen at Muro inquiring about the matter.

St. Paul of the Cross

A large number of people had accompanied St. Paul of the Cross to his ship after giving a mission. One of the men present was a Dr. Gherardini who had waited on the pier until the ship was well on its way. Returning to the town, he saw St. Paul of the Cross coming out of a room at a friend's house. He said to the saint, "How now, Fr. Paul, are you here? I have been with you down to the pier, I have watched you to a distance out at sea, and now I find you here?" St. Paul replied quietly, "Be still. I came here for an act of charity." After this, he simply disappeared.

Others who Bilocated

Other saints known to have bilocated St. Joseph of Cupertino - who was also known to levitate, St. Lydwine of Schiedam, St. Martin de Porres, St.

Catherine Dei Ricci, Ven. Mary of Agreda - who wrote the phenomenal work *The Mystical City of God*, St. Francis of Paola, St. Drogo, St. Anthony of Padua - who was known for many wonders, St. Peter Regalado, St. Francis Xavier, St. Vincent Pallotti, John Edward Lamy, St. John Bosco - Founder of the Salesian Order still active around the world today and Padre Pio - the great stigmatist.

The Holy Stigmata

Saints who Bore the Wounds of Christ

Saints who bore the Stigmata had wounds in their feet, hands and side – corresponding to the wounds of Christ on the Cross.

Sometimes unheard of outside Catholic circles, the phenomenon of stigmata was first seen in St. Francis of Assisi, who was wounded with the injuries of Christ on Mount Alverna when he prayed to know within his full person the suffering of Christ. But there has been speculation for centuries whether St. Paul was stigmatized in some way because of a statement he made in one of his letters about a ‘thorn in his flesh’ that would never leave.

Various Forms of the Stigmata

Most stigmata appear in the form of wounds in the hands and feet sometimes accompanied by a wound in the side where the lance went through the ribcage of Christ. These wounds often will bleed more profusely on Fridays and/or around 3:00 P.M., the time and day that Christ was believed to have died on the cross. Most stigmatists also experienced visions while the wounds were bleeding of the Passion of the Christ.

But there are other forms, too. St. Rita of Cascia bore a thorn wound in her forehead. And there are at least two saints who have had the image of a cross emblazoned in their foreheads. Some stigmatists have only the wounds in the hands, so those who bear all five wounds are unique and special.

There have been well over 100 known stigmatists in the history of the Catholic Church.

St. Francis of Assisi 1226

The Catholic Church used to observe the feast of the Impression of the Stigmata of St. Francis every September 17th until the revision of the Calendar in modern times. His stigmata were different than any other in that his skin actually formed protrusions from the wounds which appeared to be like the nails which penetrated the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. They were rounded at the top and had protrusion coming through the other end like the ends of a nail. When he received the stigmata, the entire valley around Mount Alverna saw the mountain alight with fire.

St. Thomas of Celano wrote that St. Francis “saw in the vision of God a man standing above him, like a seraph with six wings, his hands extended and his feet joined together and fixed on a cross.” He was filled with fear because of the apparition being affixed to a cross and it was then that he noticed that the

marks of the nails were appearing in his hands and feet. St. Francis also bore the wound in his side.

Saint Padre Pio 1918

The first Catholic Priest to bear the wounds of the Christ, Saint Padre Pio bore all five wounds for exactly fifty years. While in prayer in the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo, he saw St. Michael above him and before he could understand what was happening, he was struck with a holy lance. It was both painful and sweet at the same time and he had fallen to the floor as the wounds immediately began to gush forth.

Every time he performed Mass, the wounds would bleed profusely and he would witness the sufferings of Christ on the cross.

Others Known to Bear the Stigmata

Since there have been many, we provide only an inexhaustive list. Among those known to bear the stigmata who were investigated and proven valid included St. Lutgarde of Aywieres, Blessed Elizabeth the Good, St. Lydwine of Schiedam, St. Rita of Cascia, Blessed Lucy of Narni, Venerable Passitea Crogi, St. Veronica Giuliani, Blessed Osanna of Mantua, St. Gemma Galgani, Blessed Gertrude Van Oosten and Therese Neumann.

The Gift of Tongues

Also known as Glossalalia

Catholic Saints with the Gift of Tongues were able to speak in their native tongue to crowds of people from many countries – all of whom understood them.

Many people correlate speaking in tongues with the evangelical charismatic movement and the prayer meetings wherein people are overtaken by the spirit to speak in a different language. In the Catholic Tradition, however, speaking in tongues includes a different phenomenon. That miracle includes speaking in your own native tongue to a crowd of thousands who speak many different languages, all of whom hear the same sermon in their own language and understand it perfectly with no need of an interpreter.

St. Anthony of Padua 1231

One of the first priests of the Franciscan order, St. Anthony was known for his unbelievable oratorical skills. In *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*, there is an account of St. Anthony speaking before the Pope and many Cardinals who were gathered from many nations. But he spoke so beautifully and eloquently on the Word of God, that all present understood his message clearly. He is also known to have preached in perfect Italian when in Italy and French when in

France although he never studied any of these languages.

St. Vincent Ferrer 1419

A Dominican, St. Vincent Ferrer preached in Latin or his native tongue which was called Limousin, the native tongue of Valencia. But the penitents who followed him wherever he went from many countries understood every word he said. He was also known to speak in tongues and this was witnessed by contemporary biographers.

St. Paul of the Cross 1775

Giving a sermon on the Isle of Elba, St. Paul of the Cross was not only heard by many nationalities – all of whom understood him – but he was heard at great distance, it is said up to five miles away.

St. Dominic 1221

A story is related that St. Dominic was traveling with his brothers when they came across a group of two German pilgrims who indicated their desire that they sit down and sup with them. They stayed with them for four days and St. Dominic felt grieved that because of the language barrier they seemed to have nothing to offer these two German men. St. Dominic asked his brothers to pray with them, and immediately they were all able to preach the gospel to

the German Pilgrims for the remainder of their journey.

Others Known to Speak in Tongues

Others known to speak in tongues included St. Louis Bertrand, St. Martin De Porres, St. Philip Benizi, St. Jean-Marie Baptiste Vianney, St. Bernardine of Siena, St. Pacomius, St. Francis Solano and Padre Pio.

Mystical Knowledge

Inexplicable Knowledge Demonstrated in the Saints

Uneducated Saints were able to explain deep mysteries of the Catholic Faith and this is called Mystical Knowledge.

Some saints possessed gifts of Mystical Knowledge which involved knowing the hearts and secret consciences of others, while others were able to explain profoundly difficult theological renderings of the mysteries of the faith without any education. Some saints knew of events happening at far distant places regarding people and events they may not have even met. Many of them knew the exact hour of births and deaths of individuals.

St. Anthony of Padua 1231

It was said of St. Anthony that he knew the entire Holy Bible by heart, another manifestation of this profound gift of the Holy Spirit.

St. Catherine of Siena 1380

St. Catherine's profound mystical knowledge is best displayed in her classic work, *The Dialogues of St. Catherine of Siena*.

But many stories were related of her including one involving a soldier. Apparently, St. Catherine of Siena appeared to him in a dream telling him of the concerning state of his soul and his need to go to confession. Upon waking, he was so taken with the dream that he set out to go see St. Catherine to see if it was really the woman who had come to him in his dream. After recognizing her, he went to her confessor to make a full confession of his sins.

After his confession, however, St. Catherine asked him if he had confessed all of his sins. He gave it deep thought and concluded that he had so St. Catherine of Siena too him aside and reminded him of something he had done in another city, very secretly. Immediately, he returned to the confessional to confess this. He claimed it was something that only he knew about and immediately began telling everyone of Saint Catherine of Siena's ability to read souls.

It was before the end of that year that the soldier became very sick and passed.

St. John Bosco 1888

Bringing thousands of people back to God even now long after his death through the Salesian order, St. John Bosco had the ability to mystically read the conscience of other people. He also apparently knew the exact date of any person's death who was bold enough to ask him.

Others Known to Have the Gift of Mystical Knowledge

St. Gerard Majella, Blessed Jordan of Pisa, St. Lydwine of Schiedam, St. Hedwig, Blessed Mary Fortunata Viti, St. Francis of Paola, St. Philip Neri, St. Martin de Porres, St. Joseph of Cupertino, St. Francis of Assisi, Blessed Anthony Grassi, St. Paul of the Cross, St. John Marie Baptiste Vianney, St. Anthony Mary Claret, St. Alphonsus Liguori, Blessed Mary of Oignies, St. Vincent Pallotti, Blessed Peter of Tiferno, Blessed Francis of Camporosso, St. Padre Pio, Blessed Francis of Posadas, Blessed Fulco of Neulilly, St. John of Sahagun, St. John Joseph of the Cross and Pope St. Pius V are among the lengthy lists of saints who possessed these gifts.

Incorruptibles

The Phenomenon of Incorruption in the Bodies of Saints

Many of the saint's bodies after death remained intact and did not decay according to natural law.

According to the laws of nature, when we die our bodies decay, corrupt and wither away. But there are saints in the Catholic Tradition whose bodies have defied all laws of science and have been preserved in ways which do not concur with the natural law. Science is as yet unable to explain them. Catholics believe that this incorruption of their bodies is a sign of predilection, of holiness as Jesus had said that corruption would touch those of His just.

St. Bernadette Soubirous 1844

Perhaps the most famous incorruptible in Catholic Tradition is St. Bernadette of Soubirous, the famous mystic who saw the Blessed Virgin Mary at Lourdes and found the spring according to her words.

But sources are mixed on her actual incorruptibility. Having died in 1844, she was exhumed three times. Each exhumation yielded some signs of decomposition, but after the third, it was said that her body was covered with visible patches of mildew and a great volume of crystals and calcium salts. Her body at that time was considered mummified - a natural

phenomena. Her skin was black and her eyes and nose were sunk in. She appears completely incorrupt in a reliquary at the shrine. But apparently this is due to a wax coating which was prepared to cover her face and hands.

St. Teresa of Avila 1582

This great Doctor of the Church was also an incorruptible. Nine months after her burial, the sisters wondered about the condition of her body because an aroma of roses surrounded her tomb. They made the decision to exhume her body and found that the coffin was collapsed, rotting and filled with molds. Dampness filled the coffin and it also smelled. Her clothing had fallen to pieces and dirt had fallen onto her body. But beneath all this stench, her body appeared as if she had been buried just the night before. They re clothed her and noticed a rosy fragrance penetrating throughout the whole monastery.

Her body was examined by doctors three years after death who declared the condition to be a miracle. In their report, they said, "For after three years, without having been embalmed, it was in such a perfect state of preservation that nothing was wanting to it in any way, and a wonderful odour issued from it."

St. Teresa of Avila remains incorrupt.

St. Charles Borromeo 1584

It was during St. Charles Borromeo's beatification process that it was discovered that his body had remained incorrupt despite having been buried under pavement in an area which was found to be corroded, naturally humid with moisture going all the way down to the corpse. Despite the condition of the coffin, his body was completely incorrupt twenty years after his burial.

Others Known to have been Incorrupt

There are approximately 102 known incorruptibles in the Catholic Tradition. I clarify this because incorruptibility has been reported with Hindu, Islamic, Buddhist and Jewish saints alike. Among them include St. Catherine of Siena, St. Catherine of Genoa, St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, St. Charbel, St. Josaphat, St. John Vianney, St. Francis Xavier, St. Catherine Laboure and many more.

Sources

Mysteries, Marvels and Miracles: In the Lives of the Saints - By Joan Carroll Cruz

Miraculous Phenomena, Transverberation, The Gift of Prophecy, The Spiritual Gift of Invisibility, Multiplication of Food, Miraculous Transport, The Odor of Sanctity, Levitation, Bilocation, The Holy Stigmata, The Gift of Tongues, Mystical Knowledge, Incorruptibles

Miraculous Phenomena in the Catholic Church

An Overview

By Marilyn Hughes

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<http://outofbodytravel.org>

Many Miraculous Phenomena have been reported throughout the centuries in the Catholic Church. In order to understand some of the most common and important phenomena, I've outlined what some of these Miraculous Phenomena are and given a list of some of the saints and others who displayed them. This book includes Transverberation, The Gift of Prophecy, The Spiritual Gift of Invisibility, Multiplication of Food, Miraculous Transport, The Odor of Sanctity, Levitation, Bilocation, The Holy Stigmata, The Gift of Tongues, Mystical Knowledge and the Incorruptibles. This book gives you an overview and insight into a subject otherwise only understood through lengthy study.

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