

Romanian monastery at Sihastria

Head sacristan Brother Constantine was an eyewitness to several miracles, which occurred during the Divine Liturgy at Sihastria.

Once while I was serving my turn as sacristan, I noticed that the antidoron for the abbot was white and very sweet, while the one for Fr. Calistrat was green and almost spoiled. I asked Abbot Ioanichie about this.

'Fr. Abbot why is it that when Fr. Calistrat serves his antidoron is green and rancid?'



'Oh! My son he serves with doubt in his mind! He went to an ascetic nun in the forest who told him that the Holy Spirit does not descend upon the Holy Gifts at the Liturgy because of the calendar issue. This particular nun continued to adhere to the old calendar, in opposition to the decision of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church. The nun said, "The Holy Spirit does not descend when you serve the Divine Liturgy because you have gone over to the new calendar!". I told him he is going to endure trials because of this doubt in his mind!

Then when Fr. Calistrat was serving the Divine Liturgy and invoked the grace of the Holy Spirit, he saw that the Lamb had become flesh, and blood was flowing on the holy disc and onto the holy antimins. Then when he looked into the chalice he saw blood. He called me over to the altar table: 'Brother Constantine, come over here! What do you see?'

'Oh! Fr. Calistrat! The holy communion has become real flesh and blood!'

Then he sent me to call the abbot. When Fr. Ioanichie came into the altar he immediately told those at the cliros to read from the Psalter. Then he turned to Fr. Calistrat and said, 'So! Fr. Calistrat, now do you believe that the Holy Spirit descends upon the Gifts?'

'Forgive me, Father!' Fr. Calistrat answered and fell on his knees.

Fr. Abbot Ioanichie continued to speak to Fr. Calistrat 'Look! Has the Holy Spirit come? Has he transformed this into flesh? Is this blood? Do you still have doubts, Father?'

'I do believe Fr. Abbot. I beg you to forgive me!'

'Gather up the Holy Mysteries!'. Then with the spear they made a small hole in the leg of the, altar table, because the altar table is the tomb of Christ, and they buried the Holy Mysteries there according to the teachings of the holy fathers.

'Now do you believe?' the Abbot asked Fr. Calistrat.

'I believe Father.'