

the Monstrance of their own construction, offering their humble worship to Jesus, and defending His fragile Sacramental existence against the invasion of other insects.

The discovery of the crime caused universal sorrow and consternation in the city of Quito. The awful sacrilege filled the Priests and Catholics with unutterable grief and anguish. The uncertainty of the whereabouts of the Sacred Hosts augmented their grief. They were afraid, perhaps the Sacred Hosts were still in the guilty hands of robbers. They went in crowds to the Monastery, to see what could be done.

Not far from the Monastery they witnessed a most peculiar sight, the road was covered with farmer's wagons on their way to the City Market and drawn by asses and mules, who when they came to a certain spot, bent their forefeet, and profoundly bowed their heads, as if in respect and adoration before some mysterious object. The anxious crowd went to investigate this strange conduct; and remained dumb with astonishment to see the ants acting as guard of honor, around the Monstrance, built by themselves, and containing their Lord and Master. With tears of joy and gratitude, the crowd prostrated themselves around this most marvellous exposition of the Blessed Eucharist.

The Bishop of Quito, having heard of the miracle, not wishing his flock to show less love, and respect for the God of the Sacred Hosts, than the Ants had done, ordered a solemn feast of reparation, after which a general procession of penitence should bring back the Sacred Hosts to the Church of St Clare.

The people eagerly responded to the ordinance of their Bishop. The entire population clothed in black, with tears and sobs, accompanied the Bishops and barefooted clergy, to the miraculous hill, and amid hymns of love and reparation, the God of the Eucharist was brought back and solemnly enthroned in His earthly home.

Some years after a commemorative Chapel was built its dome overshadowing the green hills of Pichincha, from which it derives its name.

