Analysis of the sacred object and the power of the creed under it

Luiza Freitas Farias
up201800445@up.pt
fariasaziul@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION
Gothic reliquary urn on display in the Episcopal museum of Vic, in the region of Catalonia. It bears depictions, in three scenes, of the life of the brothers Lucian and Marcian, martyred saints described in the book the Golden Legend, and is part of the seven relics venerated in the old chapel of Sant Sadurni, poterioarly absorbed by the church of Pietat.

OBJECTIVES
The central objective of this study is to bring a vision of the belief aggregated to the liturgical object, and how these objects highlight faith. In the case of the brothers Lucian and Marcian, the belief in them is associated with the sacrifice made for the purification of their souls and their studies about the Christian liturgy. The celebration of the brothers is associated with their martyrdom, October 26, and came to be celebrated in the city of Vic in the eighteenth century when the city was going through major earthquakes and its residents prayed to the brothers, who protected the city.

METHODOLOGY
An iconography analysis based on the story of the brothers described in the book the Golden Legend. There are two stories of Lucian and Marcian that appear in the edition of the Golden Legend, the one used as interpretative basis consists of the main moments of the brothers’ conversion from black magic to Christianity, from the first moment of confrontation with the faith, until the remission of their sins, the persecution of Christians by Emperor Decius, until the brothers’ punishment, who were burned in a public square.

CONCLUSIONS
As in so many other stories of faith and apparitions, the conclusion that can be drawn from the brothers’ story is that we need an object, a proof, that the story really existed, something that proves the miracle and strengthens our faith, both in the liturgical object and in religon itself. The importance of the faith attributed to the object is measured by the size of the belief in it. Brothers Lucian and Marcian, Vic’s current patron saints, emphasize the power of faith in the face of black magic, and how sacrifices in virtue of it can purify souls and spread the divine word more powerfully. The question I want to leave is, if this urn had no connection with the miracle credited to the brothers by the residents of Vic, would the importance of this object be less?