

## THE MIRACLE OF BREAD

Religious breads are present in every period of human life, from birth to death, end even after death. The story about religions breads is a story about the ethical and symbolic life of humans which has always been actual! Because of that this story should not be forgotten!

The miracle of bread is not dead, it is a *living human treasure* of collective memory. Son of Joseph and Mary was born in Bethlehem ("*Beth-Leham*" – house of bread).



There are many ritual and symbolical meanings in religious bread.

*“Remember this day, in which ye come out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out from this place: there shall no leaved bread be eaten”* – spoke Moses.

In the memoirs of Saint Martin, who one day meeting a freezing beggar at the city gate of Amiens and tore his riding cloak in two and gave one half to the beggar, all Christians on a holy day in October ate Saint Martins bread.

The bread is one of the greatest symbols of inter-religious and intercultural influences. The Mohammedans originally did not consider agriculture and bread a living creature meriting special respect. But, in a world in which Christianity ascribed such great importance to bread, Islam was eventually moved to modify its indifference.

### Project summary

The project *Miracle of the Bread* is sub-project of the *Bread – The World's Heritage*. The main **aim of the project** is to educate and to demonstrate, on a popular way the *living human treasure* concerning bread as a religious symbol. In the background of these aim is the tendency to support *better understandings* and *more tolerance* between humans and their different religions and cultural traditions. It will give possibilities to ordinary people that learn not only about their cultural and religious tradition but in the same time to learn and understand something about other religions and culture through “popular” and “unexpected” theme – Bread (including bread recipes).

The Miracle of Bread is a multireligion and multicultural project concerning Jewish, West Christians, Orthodox and Moslem religions.

Methodologically it is multidisciplinary project (history of religions, theology, sociology of culture, ethnology, gastronomy etc.). The team consisting of the experts will carry out this: *Meanings that bread has in holy books; Bread in church ritual, Places and symbols that bread has in home religious rituals; Religious breads in the context of modern society; as well as Collecting meanings and recipes of bread connected with religions and visual illustrations.*