



Adsum

Adsum is published by the seminarians of **Mater Dei Seminary** for the enjoyment of our families, friends, and benefactors.

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Throughout this holy season of Lent, there is a special Lenten Mass for each day, and in a wonderful manner, our Holy Mother the Church teaches us the striking parallel between the Old Testament and the New Testament. As we well know, in the Old Testament, the holy men and women and the events which took place before the advent of the Messiah prefigured Jesus Christ.

This is especially seen in the deliverance of the Israelites from the slavery of the Egyptians. The Paschal Lamb, a lamb without blemish, was offered in sacrifice and the blood of the lamb was placed on the doorposts by God's Chosen People so that their houses would be passed over as God struck the first born sons of the Egyptians. Jesus Christ, the true Lamb of God, offered Himself in sacrifice on the Cross and shed His Blood to deliver us from the slavery of Satan.



As in the Old Testament, the Israelites celebrated their deliverance from slavery by the feast of the "Passover," so we now celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass—the renewal of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross in an unbloody manner.

Although time does not permit to review the tremendous harmony between the Old and the New Testaments, the Lenten liturgy shows us the detailed prophecies about the sufferings of the Messiah perfectly fulfilled by Christ. It also shows us the miracles worked by the holy men of the Old Testament which Our Lord performed in a much more stupendous manner; furthermore, the events in the lives of Moses and the prophets marvelously prefigured Our Divine Lord.

There is, however, another parallel which we can see

today between the life of Christ and the Catholic Church, His Mystical Body. In the time of Our Lord, we find that the Scribes and Pharisees, the very ones learned in Scripture and the Law, were His most bitter enemies and refused to recognize Him as the promised Messiah. In our own times, the modernist “bishops” and “priests” are steeped in false ecumenism by accepting all the religions of the world. The one religion they are opposed to is traditional Catholicism. To them it doesn’t matter what Church you belong to or what religion you follow, just don’t be one of those traditional Catholics!

By the way, Benedict XVI plans to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Assisi meeting (where John Paul II called all the religions of the world together to Assisi to pray for world peace). This recognition of the value of the prayers of false religions offered to their false gods in the very churches of Assisi was a violation of the 1st Commandment. This is nothing else than “abandoning the religion revealed by God,” to use the words of Pope Pius XI in *Mortalium Animos* (1929) in his definition of false ecumenism. In other words, it is apostasy.

As you noticed in the pictures of this newsletter, Rev. Michael Oswalt was ordained to the diaconate. Besides the priestly ordinations in June, some seminarians of Mater Dei will receive clerical tonsure and others the minor orders on May 11. Please pray for our future priests!

Every year our grade and high school students at Mater Dei Academy compete in Lincoln, Nebraska, in the state archery competition. This year our high school students were state champions for the second year in a row. It is amazing that our little school was able to beat much larger public and parochial schools of far greater student attendance. Some of our students are among the best shooters in the state. They are now preparing to travel to Louisville, Kentucky, to participate on a national level. Last year, when they participated, they were competing against more than 7000 students from all over the country. May St. Sebastian intercede for our academy!

May all of you have a grace-filled Holy Week and feast of the Resurrection!

With my prayers and blessing,
Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI



Out of the 49 students of Mater Dei Academy who took part in the state competition, the above students were among the top shooters

A Masterpiece of Craftsmanship

by a seminarian

In 1896, when the little Chapel of Our Lady of Light in Santa Fe was almost completed, the architect was murdered. Only then did the people realize that in the plans he had forgotten to include a staircase to the twenty-foot high choir loft. The Sisters of Loretto, for whom the chapel was built, consulted several architects, but all agreed that, since the chapel was so small (only 25 by 60 feet), it would not be possible to use it for liturgical functions if stairs were put in. Faced with this sad situation, the Sisters sought refuge in prayer and started a novena to St. Joseph, the patron saint of carpenters.

Just one day after this novena ended, an old man knocked at the door of the convent with a donkey that carried his tools and belongings. Without introducing himself, the old man said he had heard that the nuns needed a staircase and that he would like to do the job. How strange were the conditions under which he wanted to fulfill the task! He asked the sisters who showed him the choir loft that he was to be left alone. He even wanted to lock the chapel, since he didn't need anyone's help. After three months had passed, he called Mother Magdalene to see his work. She was so amazed that she ran to get the other sisters. When they returned to the church together, they found it swept clean and the old man, his donkey and his tools were gone. The sisters tried to find him because he had not been paid for his work. They asked in the city if anyone had seen an old man with a donkey, and even offered a reward for information. But no one had ever seen him, neither three weeks before,

nor after. Thus, the question as to who the old man really was will never be answered with certainty. However, if one just looks more closely at the stairs, one can't help but believe that there is something miraculous about them.

The most amazing thing about the staircase is the fact that it has no visible means of support, neither a center

pole to wind around, nor a wall to cling to (the connections to the wall, as well as the railing, have been added afterwards for the sake of security). Also, there is no support from underneath, which spiral staircases usually require. In addition to that, it is to be noticed that the carpenter did not use a single nail or screw, but attached everything by means of wood dowels. The two stringers attached to the thirty-three steps are perfectly matching spirals, which is all the more difficult since the staircase makes two 360 degree turns. If we observe these two stringers a little closer, we can see that they are not just one bent piece of wood, but consist of several sections of wood spliced together. All this the carpenter did having only, according to Mother Magdalene's diary, a couple of hammers, an ancient and unusual looking saw, a T-Square and a chisel.

The wood he used was hardwood, not native to New Mexico. But he didn't bring wood with him, nor did he buy it from the lumber supplier in Santa Fe. So the question as to who this carpenter was can never be satisfactorily answered. The whole story, nevertheless, teaches us that fervent and confident prayer is answered, sometimes even in a very extraordinary way, like in the little chapel in Santa Fe.



Father Connell Answers Moral Questions

by Very Rev. Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., S.T.D., LL.D., L.H.D.

Flour for Altar Breads

Question: Is it true that by government orders some extraneous matter is added to wheaten flour at the present day? If so, what is to be said of the use of altar breads made from such flour?

Answer: There are governmental prescriptions, emanating from the Food and Drug Administration, laying down detailed certain brands of flour and the proportion in which they may be added. Flour which is modified in this manner is supposed to be labelled (on the container) in such wise that it can be recognized as being a mixture of wheat and of other substances. Thus, we have “enriched flour”, “enriched bromated flour”, “self-rising flour”, etc. The substances which are added are mainly vitamins, riboflavin, thiamine, niacin, iron and calcium. The purpose of joining extra ingredients to the wheat is to increase the food-value of the flour.

However, the quantity of these extraneous elements is so small that there is no doubt about the use of bread made from such flours as *valid* matter of the Holy Eucharist. For example, in making the “enriched flour” the maximum quantity of calcium permitted to a pound is 625 milligrams—about one-seventh of one percent of the whole. The amount of iron, niacin, thiamine, etc., allowed by the Food and Drug Administration is much less. Accordingly, such insignificant additions would certainly not endanger the *validity* of the Eucharistic Consecration, in the event that the altar breads were made from such enriched flour.

It would not be *lawful* to use such brands of flour for altar breads, when unblended wheaten flour is easily available. Pure flour is still advertised as “white flour,” “wheat flour,” “plain flour,” or simply “flour,” and if it is purchased from a reliable firm, those who make altar breads need have no doubts or anxiety about using it. Indeed, even the use of an enriched flour for the making of altar breads would not seem to be *gravely* sinful, since the amount of extraneous matter is so small. Even in what is sold as plain flour there may be, according to governmental regulation, a quarter of one percent of malted barley flour, to make up for the natural deficiency of enzymes. One of the chemists in the Food and Drug Administration office informed me that in the near future it may become the regular procedure to enrich all wheaten flour placed on the market. In the event that it becomes very difficult to obtain flour that is entirely free from added ingredients, there would be no objection to the use of enriched flour, from the standpoint of theological principles. To such a case can be reasonably applied the words of Capello, speaking of the mixture of some extraneous element with the wine for the Holy Sacrifice: “*Usus vini ita commixti cum alia substantia seu aqua in minima quantitate vetatur sub levi. Porro, ex certa theologorum doctrina justa et rationabilis causa excusat a peccato veniali*” (*De Sacramentis*, I, 289).

An exception must be made, however, in regard to any brand of “self-rising” flour, since bread made from this brand would be leavened, the use of which is gravely sinful in the Latin Church. Furthermore, there is about five percent of extraneous matter in such flour, which might be a serious illicit amount, even though there would not be much doubt about the validity of its consecration.

Adsum, a publication by the seminarians of **MATER DEI SEMINARY** for the reading enjoyment of friends and benefactors, is sent free of charge to all who request it. If you are interested, please provide your name and mailing address to:

MATER DEI SEMINARY
7745 Military Avenue
Omaha NE 68134-3356



Adsum

Adsum is published by the seminarians of **Mater Dei Seminary** for the enjoyment of our families, friends, and benefactors.

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Throughout this holy season of Lent, there is a special Lenten Mass for each day, and in a wonderful manner, our Holy Mother the Church teaches us the striking parallel between the Old Testament and the New Testament. As we well know, in the Old Testament, the holy men and women and the events which took place before the advent of the Messiah prefigured Jesus Christ.

This is especially seen in the deliverance of the Israelites from the slavery of the Egyptians. The Paschal Lamb, a lamb without blemish, was offered in sacrifice and the blood of the lamb was placed on the doorposts by God's Chosen People so that their houses would be passed over as God struck the first born sons of the Egyptians. Jesus Christ, the true Lamb of God, offered Himself in sacrifice on the Cross and shed His Blood to deliver us from the slavery of Satan.



As in the Old Testament, the Israelites celebrated their deliverance from slavery by the feast of the “Passover,” so we now celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass—the renewal of Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross in an unbloody manner.

Although time does not permit to review the tremendous harmony between the Old and the New Testaments, the Lenten liturgy shows us the detailed prophecies about the sufferings of the Messiah perfectly fulfilled by Christ. It also shows us the miracles worked by the holy men of the Old Testament which Our Lord performed in a much more stupendous manner; furthermore, the events in the lives of Moses and the prophets marvelously prefigured Our Divine Lord.

There is, however, another parallel which we can see

today between the life of Christ and the Catholic Church, His Mystical Body. In the time of Our Lord, we find that the Scribes and Pharisees, the very ones learned in Scripture and the Law, were His most bitter enemies and refused to recognize Him as the promised Messiah. In our own times, the modernist “bishops” and “priests” are steeped in false ecumenism by accepting all the religions of the world. The one religion they are opposed to is traditional Catholicism. To them it doesn’t matter what Church you belong to or what religion you follow, just don’t be one of those traditional Catholics!

By the way, Benedict XVI plans to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Assisi meeting (where John Paul II called all the religions of the world together to Assisi to pray for world peace). This recognition of the value of the prayers of false religions offered to their false gods in the very churches of Assisi was a violation of the 1st Commandment. This is nothing else than “abandoning the religion revealed by God,” to use the words of Pope Pius XI in *Mortalium Animos* (1929) in his definition of false ecumenism. In other words, it is apostasy.

As you noticed in the pictures of this newsletter, Rev. Michael Oswalt was ordained to the diaconate. Besides the priestly ordinations in June, some seminarians of Mater Dei will receive clerical tonsure and others the minor orders on May 11. Please pray for our future priests!

Every year our grade and high school students at Mater Dei Academy compete in Lincoln, Nebraska, in the state archery competition. This year our high school students were state champions for the second year in a row. It is amazing that our little school was able to beat much larger public and parochial schools of far greater student attendance. Some of our students are among the best shooters in the state. They are now preparing to travel to Louisville, Kentucky, to participate on a national level. Last year, when they participated, they were competing against more than 7000 students from all over the country. May St. Sebastian intercede for our academy!

May all of you have a grace-filled Holy Week and feast of the Resurrection!

With my prayers and blessing,
Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI



Out of the 49 students of Mater Dei Academy who took part in the state competition, the above students were among the top shooters

A Masterpiece of Craftsmanship

by a seminarian

In 1896, when the little Chapel of Our Lady of Light in Santa Fe was almost completed, the architect was murdered. Only then did the people realize that in the plans he had forgotten to include a staircase to the twenty-foot high choir loft. The Sisters of Loretto, for whom the chapel was built, consulted several architects, but all agreed that, since the chapel was so small (only 25 by 60 feet), it would not be possible to use it for liturgical functions if stairs were put in. Faced with this sad situation, the Sisters sought refuge in prayer and started a novena to St. Joseph, the patron saint of carpenters.

Just one day after this novena ended, an old man knocked at the door of the convent with a donkey that carried his tools and belongings. Without introducing himself, the old man said he had heard that the nuns needed a staircase and that he would like to do the job. How strange were the conditions under which he wanted to fulfill the task! He asked the sisters who showed him the choir loft that he was to be left alone. He even wanted to lock the chapel, since he didn't need anyone's help. After three months had passed, he called Mother Magdalene to see his work. She was so amazed that she ran to get the other sisters. When they returned to the church together, they found it swept clean and the old man, his donkey and his tools were gone. The sisters tried to find him because he had not been paid for his work. They asked in the city if anyone had seen an old man with a donkey, and even offered a reward for information. But no one had ever seen him, neither three weeks before,

nor after. Thus, the question as to who the old man really was will never be answered with certainty. However, if one just looks more closely at the stairs, one can't help but believe that there is something miraculous about them.

The most amazing thing about the staircase is the fact that it has no visible means of support, neither a center

pole to wind around, nor a wall to cling to (the connections to the wall, as well as the railing, have been added afterwards for the sake of security). Also, there is no support from underneath, which spiral staircases usually require. In addition to that, it is to be noticed that the carpenter did not use a single nail or screw, but attached everything by means of wood dowels. The two stringers attached to the thirty-three steps are perfectly matching spirals, which is all the more difficult since the staircase makes two 360 degree turns. If we observe these two stringers a little closer, we can see that they are not just one bent piece of wood, but consist of several sections of wood spliced together. All this the carpenter did having only, according to Mother Magdalene's diary, a couple of hammers, an ancient and unusual looking saw, a T-Square and a chisel.



The wood he used was hardwood, not native to New Mexico. But he didn't bring wood with him, nor did he buy it from the lumber supplier in Santa Fe. So the question as to who this carpenter was can never be satisfactorily answered. The whole story, nevertheless, teaches us that fervent and confident prayer is answered, sometimes even in a very extraordinary way, like in the little chapel in Santa Fe.

Father Connell Answers Moral Questions

by Very Rev. Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., S.T.D., LL.D., L.H.D.

Flour for Altar Breads

Question: Is it true that by government orders some extraneous matter is added to wheaten flour at the present day? If so, what is to be said of the use of altar breads made from such flour?

Answer: There are governmental prescriptions, emanating from the Food and Drug Administration, laying down detailed certain brands of flour and the proportion in which they may be added. Flour which is modified in this manner is supposed to be labelled (on the container) in such wise that it can be recognized as being a mixture of wheat and of other substances. Thus, we have “enriched flour”, “enriched bromated flour”, “self-rising flour”, etc. The substances which are added are mainly vitamins, riboflavin, thiamine, niacin, iron and calcium. The purpose of joining extra ingredients to the wheat is to increase the food-value of the flour.

However, the quantity of these extraneous elements is so small that there is no doubt about the use of bread made from such flours as *valid* matter of the Holy Eucharist. For example, in making the “enriched flour” the maximum quantity of calcium permitted to a pound is 625 milligrams—about one-seventh of one percent of the whole. The amount of iron, niacin, thiamine, etc., allowed by the Food and Drug Administration is much less. Accordingly, such insignificant additions would certainly not endanger the *validity* of the Eucharistic Consecration, in the event that the altar breads were made from such enriched flour.

It would not be *lawful* to use such brands of flour for altar breads, when unblended wheaten flour is easily available. Pure flour is still advertised as “white flour,” “wheat flour,” “plain flour,” or simply “flour,” and if it is purchased from a reliable firm, those who make altar breads need have no doubts or anxiety about using it. Indeed, even the use of an enriched flour for the making of altar breads would not seem to be *gravely* sinful, since the amount of extraneous matter is so small. Even in what is sold as plain flour there may be, according to governmental regulation, a quarter of one percent of malted barley flour, to make up for the natural deficiency of enzymes. One of the chemists in the Food and Drug Administration office informed me that in the near future it may become the regular procedure to enrich all wheaten flour placed on the market. In the event that it becomes very difficult to obtain flour that is entirely free from added ingredients, there would be no objection to the use of enriched flour, from the standpoint of theological principles. To such a case can be reasonably applied the words of Capello, speaking of the mixture of some extraneous element with the wine for the Holy Sacrifice: “*Usus vini ita commixti cum alia substantia seu aqua in minima quantitate vetatur sub levi. Porro, ex certa theologorum doctrina justa et rationabilis causa excusat a peccato veniali*” (*De Sacramentis*, I, 289).

An exception must be made, however, in regard to any brand of “self-rising” flour, since bread made from this brand would be leavened, the use of which is gravely sinful in the Latin Church. Furthermore, there is about five percent of extraneous matter in such flour, which might be a serious illicit amount, even though there would not be much doubt about the validity of its consecration.

Adsum, a publication by the seminarians of **MATER DEI SEMINARY** for the reading enjoyment of friends and benefactors, is sent free of charge to all who request it. If you are interested, please provide your name and mailing address to:

MATER DEI SEMINARY
7745 Military Avenue
Omaha NE 68134-3356