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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.

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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 Messias. 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.

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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.

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**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.
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