

like flour mixed with honey : « *Man-hu ?* » they exclaimed, which means « What is it ? » Moses answered them : « It is the bread that the Lord sends you. » From that moment, every morning, by God's order, the Hebrews came with baskets before sunrise and collected the exact amount they needed for the day, except on Friday, the eve of the Sabbath, when they could gather enough for the two days. The food retained the name of the exclamation « *Man-hu* » or « *Manna* » that the Israelites had uttered when they saw it for the first time. It continued to be served to them by God during the forty years that they remained in the desert.

The Manna was a figure of the Holy Eucharist. What one was to the body, the other is to the soul. Jesus in the Sacrament is really the true food of our Souls. But the new Manna infinitely surpasses the old one. The latter did not prevent the Hebrews from dying while Jesus Christ solemnly affirms in the Gospel that he who eats his body, the true bread come down from heaven, shall live eternally (St. John, vi, 49-52.)

GROUP II. — Abraham's sacrifice.

THE second group is in the centre nave of the church near the left column. It represents *Abraham's sacrifice*. In it we see the great Patriarch whose left arm is thrown around the neck of his son Isaac and holds him down on the pile. His right hand is lifted ready to strike. Above him appears an angel who arrests his arm just as he is about to plunge his knife into his child's heart. In a corner is the ram with his horns entangled in the brambles. Near Isaac is the sacrificial fire.

All this is the faithful reproduction of the narrative of Genesis, chapter XXII, which is substantially as follows: Abraham after leaving the country of his forefathers by command of the Lord, found himself after many wanderings in the land of Canaan. God had frequently promised his servant to give him a son in spite of the apparent contradictions of nature. This son was given to him; he was Isaac. But after giving him, the Lord seemed to wish to take him away from him. He commanded him to immolate him on one of the mountains of the land of Moriah. Abraham, ever docile to God's voice, took Isaac and two servants; he put some wood on the back of an ass while he himself carried the sword and sacrificial fire. When the caravan reached the foot of the mountain, Abraham ordered his servants to await him there with the ass while he continued on with