

S T O R M

THE PICTURE OF A RIVER OR LAKE WITHOUT A BOAT IS LIFELESS: NO EXCEPTION IS TO BE MADE WITH REGARD TO THE LAKE OF GENEZARETH. BUT JESUS, FOLLOWED BY HIS DISCIPLES, GETS INTO A BOAT AND THE WHOLE PICTURE BECOMES FULL OF LIFE. WITH ST. THOMAS, MANY ECCLESIASTICAL WRITERS SAY PER ISTAM NAVICULAM INTELLIGITUR ECCLESIA, THAT THIS BOAT SIGNIFIES THE CHURCH. THE FAITHFUL ENTRUST THEIR SOULS TO THE BOAT OF THE CHURCH, TO WEATHER IN IT THE STORMS OF LIFE. THE FAITHFUL AGREE WITH ST. AUGUSTINE THAT THIS WORLD IS A TREACHEROUS, BITTER, WIND-WHIPPED SEA, BUT THEY KNOW THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING ROCKS AND TEMPESTS, THE CHURCH OF CHRIST UNFAILINGLY ^{brings the passengers to the harbor} OF EVERLASTING BLISS. SINCE THE MOMENT OF OUR BAPTISM, WE TOO ARE PASSENGERS ON THIS BOAT, WHEREAS AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND MILLIONS OF NON CHRISTIANS DRIFT ABOUT ON WRETCHED PLANKS ON THE SEA OF LIFE, FAR FROM THE CHURCH. HOW BEFITTING IT IS THAT AT LEAST TWICE A DAY, IN OUR EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE, WE SHOULD THANK THE ETERNAL GOD FOR THE UNDESERVED VOCATION TO THE FAITH, "CALLING US, OUT OF DARKNESS, INTO HIS MARVELLOUS LIGHT." EQUALLY BEFITTING IT IS THAT WE SHOULD PRAY FERVENTLY FOR ALL ^IDISSENTS, THAT GOD MAY RECALL ALL THE ERRING TO UNITY IN THE CHURCH AND LEAD ALL INFIDELS TO THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL. WE REJOICE IN THE FACT THAT, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, WE ENTERED THE CHURCH INSTITUTED BY CHRIST AND WE EXPECT WITH ST. CYPRIAN TO HAVE GOD, AS OUR FATHER, SINCE WE HAVE ACCEPTED THE CHURCH, AS OUR MOTHER: AT THE SAME TIME WE ENTERTAIN HOPE AND PRAY FOR THE WELFARE OF THOSE, OUTSIDE OF OUR FAMILY, BECAUSE WITH PIUS IX WE PROFESS THAT THOSE WHO ARE INVINCIBLY IGNORANT OF OUR RELIGION AND WHO NEVERTHELESS LEAD AN HONEST AND UP^URIGHT LIFE, CAN, UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DIVINE LIGHT AND GRACE, ATTAIN TO ETERNAL LIFE: FOR GOD,