

ther, the Spirit the Earnest of our Inheritance, the Church our Mother, our food is the Body and Blood of Christ, Faith is our learning, Religion our employment, our whole life is spiritual; Heaven the object of our hopes, and the mighty prize of our high calling.

Such being the inestimable blessings and privileges annexed to the holy sacrament of Baptism, how wisely doth our Church beseech us to call upon God, our gracious and affectionate Father, through the mediation of his Blessed Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that of his unmerited mercy he would vouchsafe to adopt this natural child of wrath into his own spiritual family; to admit him into the Church militant here on earth, as preparatory to his admission into the Church triumphant in Heaven; to grant that the outward rite of washing with water may be not only a *fit emblem or outward sign* of the inward purification of soul, but may also be *the means whereby*, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, he may receive that inward spiritual grace, and may prove to our hearts an assuring pledge that God will faithfully perform the promise made by his Son at the institution of this sacrament, *Lo! I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.* And finally and especially, she beseeches us to pray that the person about to be baptized may not only become a member, but also a *lively* member of Christ's Holy Catholic Church; i. e., that his life may be in conformity to the glorious privileges of this his high calling, that he may *not receive* that spiritual *Grace of God in vain*, that he may not only be grafted into *the true Vine*, but may also *bear much fruit*. Thus doth our excellent Church wisely exhort us to pray, and the two prayers which she had provided for this occasion are, like all her formularies, simple yet sublime, fervent yet chaste, and highly scriptural both in doctrine and phraseology.

#### THE FIRST PRAYER.

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy great mercy didst save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water; and also didst safely lead the children of Israel thy people through the Red Sea, figuring thereby thy holy Baptism; and, by the Baptism of thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ in the river Jordan, didst sanctify Water to the mystical washing away of sin; we beseech thee, for thine infinite mercies, that thou wilt mercifully look upon *this Child*, wash *him*, and sanctify *him* with the Holy Ghost; that *he*, being delivered from thy wrath, may be received into the ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally *he* may come to the land of everlasting life; there to reign with thee world without end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

God is "almighty and everlasting," *the same yesterday, to-day, and forever.* The same miraculous power which, amidst a universal deluge, saved the eight persons of Noah's family, can still work the miracle of regeneration in the waters of Baptism—can, amidst the universal inundation of human depravity, admit his children into the ark of his Church, against which in vain may all the waves of this tumult-