Getting the books [PDF] The Great Of Saint Cyprian

During the Great Plague of 256, St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, wrote a letter to his clergy, which was later collected into a treatise, "On the Church's Constitution in Time of Plague." In this treatise, St. Cyprian addresses the challenges faced by the Church during this time of crisis, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the discipline and unity of the faith. He also responds to various rhetorical arguments posed by his critics, defending the Church's practice of the Eucharist and denouncing those who would seek to exploit the situation for personal gain.

1. Although Cyprian, the devout priest and glorious witness of God, composed many writings whereby the memory of his worthy name survives; and although the profuse fertility of his eloquence and of God's grace so expands

2. He condemned those confessors who were lax in not demanding penance of these Christians and supported St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, against Novatus and his dupe, Felicissimus, whom he had set up as an antibishop to Cyprian, when

3. The ancient church at Rome was the only great church of Christ's dispensation in the Roman Empire. It was considered the mother church and example for all other churches. St. Cyprian, as a bishop of a provincial city, was expected to follow the decisions and teachings of the Roman Church.

4. He also condemned those who sought to undermine the authority of the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, by claiming that the Roman Church was not infallible. St. Cyprian defended the Pope's authority, stating that the Pope was the vicar of Christ and the representative of Christ on earth.

5. Filial piety is a virtue that involves the love and respect due to one's parents. St. Cyprian emphasized the importance of filial piety, stating that it is a duty of every Christian to honor and obey their parents. He argued that this virtue is not only a moral duty but also a commandment of God.

6. At the beginning of his letter, St. Cyprian reminds his clergy of the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by the martyrs who had gone before them. He encourages them to follow the example of the saints and to be steadfast in their faith.

7. St. Cyprian concludes his letter by expressing his confidence in the Church's ability to withstand the challenges of the plague. He invites his clergy to remain steadfast in their faith and to continue to serve the Church with courage and conviction.

Note: The full text of St. Cyprian's letter, "On the Church's Constitution in Time of Plague," is available in various translations and commentaries. It is a significant work in the history of Christian thought and practice, and it continues to be studied and revered by scholars and clergy today.