

Saved from Shipwreck by the Eucharist

SAINT SATYRUS

4TH CENTURY

In his work, *De excessu fratris Satyri*, St. Ambrose himself describes this Eucharistic miracle in which his brother Satyrus played a key role. St. Satyrus was able to save himself from shipwreck thanks to the Eucharist.



Saint Satyrus and the Eucharist



About his brother, St. Ambrose writes: “What shall I say about his reverence in the worship of God? One episode will suffice. Before being fully initiated into the sublime mysteries (First Communion), he experienced a shipwreck. When the ship on which he was traveling ran aground on some reefs and while, all around, the waves were tearing it apart, he was not afraid of dying but of having to die without having been nourished by the Sacred Mysteries. So he asked for the Eucharist from those whom he knew to be initiated into the Divine Sacrament of the Faithful and placed the Holy Eucharist in a handkerchief, which he hung around his neck. Then he threw himself into the sea and looked for a plank loosened from the hulk of the ship to hang on to, but did not try to swim away to save himself, because he had put his

trust only in the weapons of the faith. Since he was convinced that he was sufficiently protected and defended by this faith, he did not look for any other help.

“Then, as soon as he was saved from the waves and reached land, he paid tribute to the Leader to whom he had entrusted himself. As soon as he was saved and realized all his servants had been saved, he went to the church of God, without complaining about the goods he had lost, to thank Him for having saved him and to get to know His *Eternal Mysteries*. He said there was no more important duty than that of giving thanks... He who had experienced the great help of the *Heavenly Mysteries* wrapped in a handkerchief considered it important to

consume the Holy Eucharist and receive the Eucharistic Christ into the depths of his heart.”