



Phillip and Phoebe

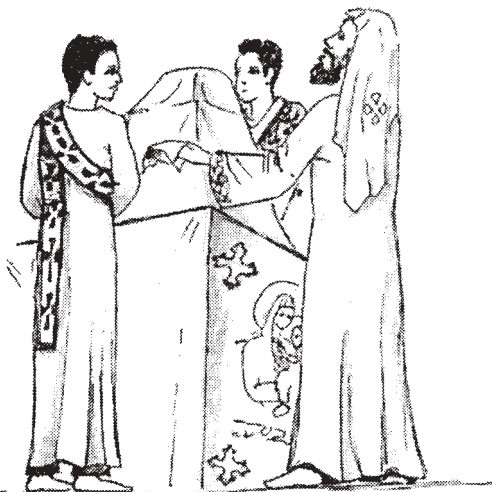
Phoebe anxiously anticipated Sunday School class this Sunday following the Divine Liturgy. She had been working hard to learn the 23rd Psalm and she already knew the first two verses,

“The Lord is My Shepherd I shall not want, He makes me to lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters...”

Phoebe could not wait to recite this in Sunday School with her classmates.

Following the completion of the Divine Liturgy, Phoebe did not talk to her friends until she had walked out of the Church. Her very best friends were those at church and she enjoyed saying hello to them on the way to Sunday School class.

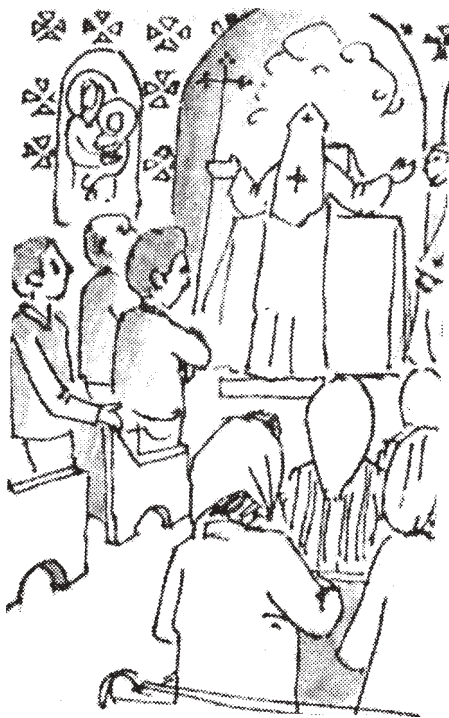
Upon entering into the classroom Phoebe again became quiet and finished eating her orbana. Phoebe with great care gently separated her orbana to finish eating it, she never bit or roughly tore it to eat it nor did she let it fall to the floor. Besides the orbana, she knew it was disrespectful to eat and drink anything at all while in Sunday School when hearing a lesson about the Lord Jesus Christ. Phoebe always remembered, the Lord Jesus Himself did not feed the multitudes the five loaves and two fishes until after His lessons to them were completed.



Phillip and two of his friends arrived in Sunday School after the door was closed and the Lord's Prayer had begun. Following the prayer, with their heads down, Phillip said, “We had



to take off our tonias and this took us a while.” Little Phoebe later told her brother that the tonia only took a second to put on why did it take so long to take off? Phoebe with love encouraged her brother and said that being a deacon actually meant that he was an example to her and the others. To Phoebe’s small eyes this meant being first in class not last. Phillip thoughtfully agreed and added that being a deacon also meant seeing if his Sunday School servant needed any help prior to the class beginning. Phillip had a good heart and with his small sister’s encouragement wanted to be a better and timelier deacon.



Phillip and Phoebe then noticed a new boy in Sunday School. After saying the Lord’s Prayer, the servant asked him to introduce himself. His father worked in the oil business and he had moved to their city all the way from Egypt. He said his old church was awesome, nothing like this little one he had just moved to and that he really missed his old church. Phillip knew this actually meant he was lonesome and had not made any new friends at his new church. Phillip decided that after Sunday School he would ask him to play basketball with he and the other youth after church and introduce him to all the boys.



Phillip also decided to encourage him to come to Vespers next week as he remembered the new boy was not at Vespers the night before. Perhaps his father had to work and he did not have a ride. Phillip would certainly ask if he would like to ride with his family to Vespers next Saturday night.

One of Phillip and Phoebe's Sunday School Servant's favorite things to do before starting the lesson was to say a verse, "*For the Lord will give you understanding in all things.*" (II Timothy 2:7) Phillip thought she always quoted this to help them better pay attention to the lesson and that if he would really focus on the lesson the Lord would help them understand it and even more than this was to apply it in the days to come whether at school or play.



In the next issue we will discover what lesson Phillip and Phoebe will learn about a twelve year old little girl whose name meant "lamb" who loved the Lord more than anything else and would not deny him. St Ambrose would say this young girl was a teacher of courage. How could such a young girl teach grown-ups courage Phoebe wondered? The servant began the lesson in a soft and slow voice saying...She was only a child yet the one to cut off her head (her executor) would tremble... people would cry at her death... and she herself until death was filled with indescribable joy....