



Phillip and Phoebe

Phillip and Phoebe were in Sunday School and the Sunday School lesson had begun. All the class was very quiet. No one flipped pages in a book, no one giggled, and certainly no one squirmed or whispered. The story about this young saint promised to be such a good one, you could have heard a pin drop on the floor!

Phoebe closed her small eyes as she listened to the story about the child, Saint Agnes...

St Agnes was only twelve years old when the son of the pagan (pagan: a person who did not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ) prefect of Rome, Sempronius, asked her to marry him. When she adamantly refused his proposal, she was quickly arrested. St Agnes was charged with being a Christian and would be punished accordingly.

St Agnes loved the Lord and certainly could not marry anyone who did not believe in Him and love Him as she did. Sorely surprised at St Agnes refusal to marry him, Sempronius first punished St Agnes by having her stripped of all her clothes.

While her clothes were humiliatingly being removed, she lifted her eyes to Heaven and began to say a prayer.

Her hair grew instantly to keep her body covered and protected while a bright

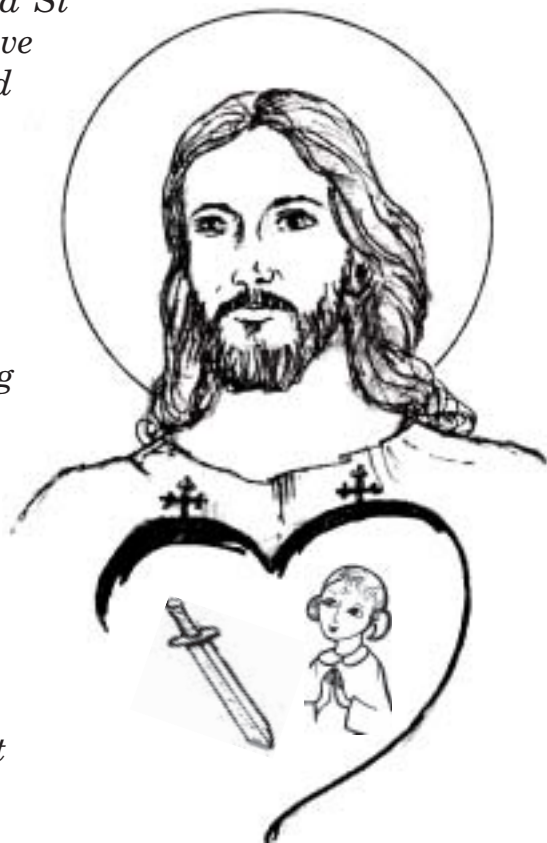




robe descended to her from Heaven to provide her with cover.

Following this, a judge then sentenced St Agnes to her death but first the judge gave her one final chance to forsake God and said, "Remember you are only a child with many more years of life ahead, denounce your God, look forward to your old age." St Agnes answered that "faith does not dwell in years but in the heart." She would not deny the Lord even if it meant she would lose her young life!

She looked to the hot flaming fire that she would be placed in with the joy of sacrifice because she loved the Lord Jesus Christ with all her heart. When she was placed in the fire, the flickering flames did not burn her little body. The scorching flames had no effect on her at all!



The only way they could eventually kill the young girl was to take her head off brutally by a sword. The executor with this foreboding task trembled before her as he did not wish to behead such a small girl. Her loved ones wept at her martyrdom, yet she like a "lamb" (which the name Agnes meant) was led to be slaughtered. Full of joy anticipating the eternal life to come, she received her crown of martyrdom in the year 305 AD.



What a story of courage Phoebe thought. How could she humbly follow the example of St Agnes and apply this story to her own life? ...Saying no to sinful things, always telling the truth, and helping with tasks in the church were ways in which Phoebe thought she too could set an example for others.

Following Sunday School, Phoebe and Phillip went outside to play. Phillip met his new friend and introduced him to all the guys. The new friend asked Phillip and the other boys how could they play basketball without their tennis shoes. Didn't they have tennis shoes he asked? Phillip quickly explained that they chose not to wear tennis shoes to the church. When they met at one another's home to play of course they always wore jeans and tennis shoes. You see, the boys did not wear blue jeans to church either...

While Phillip was busy playing basketball, Phoebe and her friends sat under a tree in the warm sunshine and began to talk about the upcoming Kid's Kamp. This would be the first year Phoebe and her friends could attend and they could hardly wait! The girl next to Phoebe asked, "I wonder if we will have to cover our heads during the Divine Liturgy in Kamp? You know our abouna and mothers will not be there to tell us we have to ..."

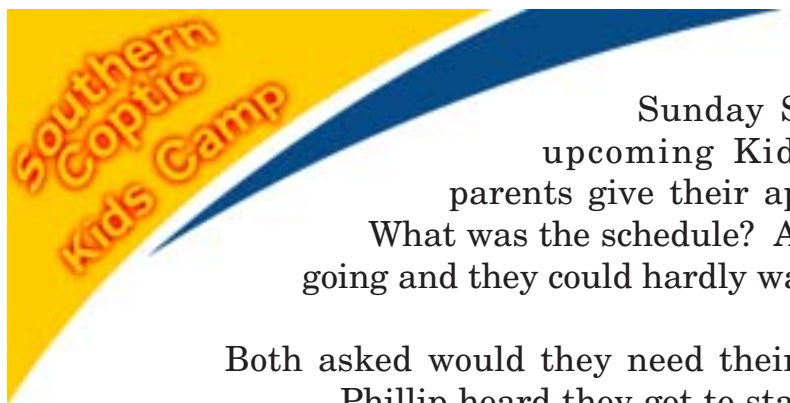
Phoebe said, "I am quite sure this never changes from place to place and church to church. Girls should cover their heads because of the angels." Phoebe although 5 years old, remembered that honorable women





wait to chew gum. Phoebe told her “Actually, I do not chew gum, blow bubbles, or drink with a straw until the next morning after taking the Communion. I want to make very sure I am careful concerning what I do after taking the Lord’s Body and Blood.” All the girls sitting together under the tree thought that Phoebe might be right and decided not to chew the gum.

Phoebe’s father was ready to leave and after saying a polite good-bye to their friends Phillip and Phoebe got in to the car to go home. Neither was quite ready to, each still wanting to play with their friends, but they must obey their parents.



Conversation in the car centered on their Sunday School lesson and the upcoming Kids Kamp. Did their parents give their applications to abouna? What was the schedule? All of their friends were going and they could hardly wait

Both asked would they need their Bibles and Agpeyas? Phillip heard they got to stay up very late at night for the Midnight Praises



Phoebe wanted to know if she could telephone her mother every day . . .

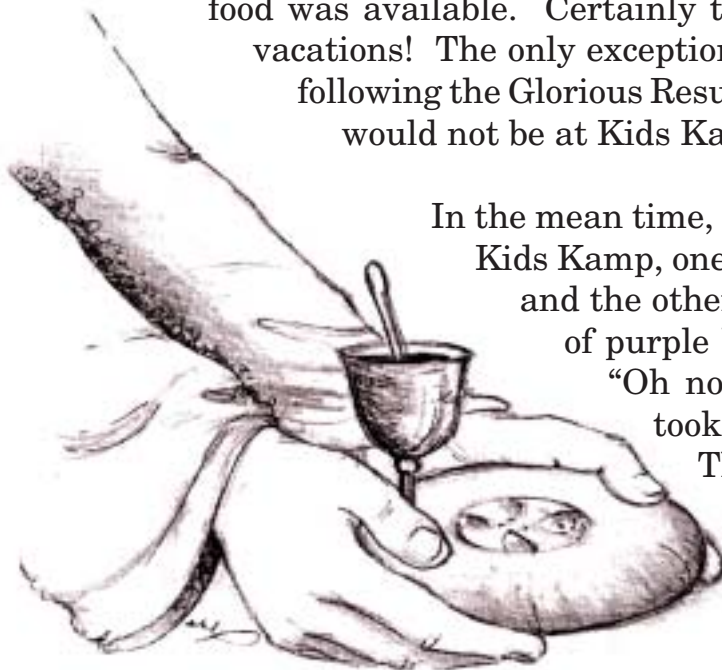
Both wanted to know if they could take their bicycles on the bus . . .

In the next issue we will go with Phillip and Phoebe to Kids Kamp See you there!



should pray with their heads covered...because of the angels. (I Corinthians 11: 5, 10) The girls also acknowledged that not only would they have to cover their heads in the Divine Liturgy but most probably during all the prayers of Kids Kamp. After all, they were “grown up” now that they could attend Kids Kamp and would have to behave more “grown up” while praying.

Another one of Phoebe’s friends asked if they would have to fast on Wednesday as the Kids Kamp was Monday through Friday. One of the girls jokingly said, “Probably not, because she heard in Florida (where the Kids Kamp would be) they did not have any foul or falafel to eat.” Everyone laughed because they all knew you had to fast on Wednesday (because this is the day Judas betrayed the Lord Jesus Christ) and Friday (the day of the terrible trials of the Lord Jesus Christ and His painful Holy Crucifixion) no matter where they were and what kind of food was available. Certainly this included fun time and vacations! The only exception to this was the fifty days following the Glorious Resurrection and they certainly would not be at Kids Kamp during this time.



In the mean time, while they were discussing Kids Kamp, one of the girls offered Phoebe and the others a delicious looking piece of purple bubble gum. Phoebe said, “Oh no, I can’t chew any gum, I took Holy Communion today.”

The little girl told Phoebe it had been two hours and that was more than enough time to