



St Mina the Martyr

Following the day of Pentecost, the disciples went out to teach people about the Lord Jesus Christ. Not all those they taught about the Lord eagerly accepted His teachings. Many unbelievers were angered at the teachings about the crucified Lord who arose from the dead and ascended into the Heaven. They were angry to the point the lives of the believers and teachers were often taken. When someone dies because they stand firm in their Christian beliefs they are called martyrs.

Saint Mena is one such young man whose life was taken because he would not deny his belief and love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is his story as recorded by the Church of St Mina in Shubra, Cairo...

A very very long time ago, there lived an elderly man whose name was Odexius. Odexius was a kind ruler of a great city, full of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and was also very rich. Odexius although with much character and great possessions had no children.



He and his wife prayed to the Lord that he may have a child. His wife, Ophomia, prayed in front of the icon of St Mary requesting the intercessions of our beloved saint. She made a promise, “Oh Mother of us all, full of kindness, if the Lord gives me a son, I promise that I will offer him to the Lord. I will not keep him only to myself.” At the instant her prayer was finished, Ophomia heard a sound coming out of the icon saying, “Amen.”

Time passed and the Lord answered



St. Mena the Martyr



Ophomia's prayer request. A son was born to Odexius and Ophomia and they named him, "Mena." Mena (from the word "Amen" coming from the icon) looked like a little angel. His tiny mouth was as sweet as honeydew, his face and eyes sparkled with radiant light.

As Mena grew into childhood, he loved to continually sing hymns and praises. He read the Holy Bible with joy and increased in wisdom of the Holy Scriptures. He would kneel down in prayer often very late into the night.

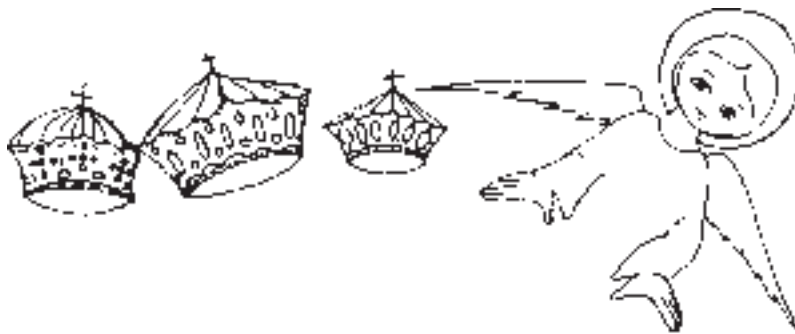
He would enter the Church with his small eyes lowered to the ground, humbly and quietly because the Church is the home of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Church, Mena eagerly learned the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ and solemnly partook of the Holy Communion. Mena desired to always stay inside the Church.

As a young man, Mena joined the army. He became known as a brave soldier and a hero. The Lord Jesus Christ blessed Mena and he succeeded in all he did. He was honest in his army service, he defended his country to his ability, and he was loved by all those he encountered because he was so helpful. Mena never made fun of or laughed at anyone.

Mena would share the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ with others. Mena with his kind teachings, simple life, and comforting words soon had many who had never accepted the Lord accepting Him and wanting to learn more about Him.

Soon, Mena's love for the Lord overcame all his earthly desires and he left the army and the world. Mena gave all his money and everything he owned to the poor. He went to the desert to a quiet and solitary place. Mena prayed, sang hymns, and read his Holy Bible all the day and night.

One day in the midst of prayer, Mena saw three crowns in the sky. He heard an angel say, "If you speak about the Lord Jesus Christ when you go back to town, you will come to Heaven and have



these three crowns. You will abide with the Lord Jesus Christ forever.” Upon hearing this Mena immediately departed to town.

With a loud voice he declared to the king, to the soldiers, and to those in the crowds, “I am a Christian, my home is not here but in Heaven!” Mena’s love for the Lord was so great he was not afraid of the consequences of his proclamation.



The angry king who did not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, ordered Mena to be beaten and thrown into a great burning fire. “Try to make him change his faith or he will die,” said the king. No one could get Mena to deny the Lord, Mena stood steadfast.

The soldiers in obedience to the king of the land killed Mena. Mena was martyred because of his belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. In honor of Mena’s love and steadfastness in his belief’s the Church respectfully calls Mena, “Saint Mena.”

May the prayers of the beloved young Saint Mena be with us.
Amen.