

Saint Stephen Confirmation Program



GUIDELINES FOR SHARING THE STORY OF YOUR SAINT Confirmation Name

The Church strongly suggests that you use the name your parents gave you at Baptism. This is because Confirmation is the fullness or completion of the Sacrament of Baptism. If, however, you choose a new name for Confirmation it must be the name of a saint.

Whatever name you decide on, your own name or that of a favorite saint, we ask that you discover how this holy person, this saint, offers you witness to walk more closely with Christ. Find out if you were named after a beloved family member or favorite saint. You may also research the roots of your name as a derivative of a Christian name.

Pray, reflect and let the Holy Spirit guide you in your search. Then **TYPE A 1 PAGE REPORT**.

- First sentence: "I am taking the name _____ (if you are choosing a new name) for Confirmation.
- OR " I am affirming the name _____ (if you are keeping your baptismal name) for Confirmation

In your own words provide a brief summary of the life of the saint whose name you chose. Include the following information:

- General story of the saint's life
- Where is this saint from?
- Why did you select this saint?
- How can this saint be a model for you to imitate?
- How did your saint show his or her love for Jesus?
- Works Cited NOTE: Your report will be returned to you if this is missing.
- Cover sheet Include your name and your saint name

Your paper may not be copied word for word ...that would be plagiarism and is against the copyright law. It is also the sin of stealing

LIST THE RESOURCES YOU USED IN YOUR RESEARCH. Here are some good places to start:

<http://americancatholic.org/>

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm>

http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/index_saints_en.html

www.SaintCast.org - a free MP3 podcast dedicated to the lives of the saints

Do not use Wikipedia , it has unreliable information.

This report will be due no later than 3/1

See over for some thoughts about Saints and the call to holiness in our lives.

Saints

Some thoughts below are taken from James Martin, SJ in My Life with the Saints

"The saints are models of what our lives could be. In following the example of their lives, we can be formed by them. In the words of Lawrence S. Cunningham, 'We hope to be what they are.'" p. 376

They are our friends in heaven and they pray for us. This is called intercessory prayer - prayer on behalf of another. We do this in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass. In the Apostles' Creed we profess our belief in the Communion of Saints - the union of all those faithful followers of Christ on earth, those in purgatory and those already in heaven. The saints can assist us in our prayers just as we can assist the souls in purgatory by our prayers.

Reading the lives of the saints can help us to see what following Jesus looked like in their lives. They inspire us to use our own gifts and talents to follow Him, too, although not necessarily in the same way they did.

All of us because of our baptism are called to become saints - persons whose lives reflect the life of Jesus in some way. Shortly after he was baptized as an adult Thomas Merton told a friend that he wanted to be a good Catholic. His friend answered him that he should want to become a saint. Merton had not thought of that and asked, "**How do you expect me to become a saint?**" **His friend replied, "By wanting to.** All that is necessary to be a saint is to want to be one. Don't you believe God will make you what He created you to be, if you consent to let him do it? All you have to do is desire it." cf. p. 384

As Mother Teresa said, "Holiness is not the luxury of a few. It is everyone's duty: yours and mine."

"The universal call to holiness is an invitation to be ourselves..."

"The call to sanctity is an invitation to friendship with God. It is a call that transformed the lives of the saints into gifts to the One who loved them into being. The invitation to holiness is a lifelong call to draw closer to God, who wants nothing more than to encounter us as the people we are and the saints we are meant to be." p.390

Keep these thoughts in mind as you consider the saint who will be your patron at Confirmation. You may choose to affirm your baptismal name or you may choose another saint. In either case, read about their life and see what their path to holiness looked like. Then ask that saint to help you to find the way of holiness that you will follow.

So do YOU want to become a saint?