

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

At Baptism, Christian names are given to identify us as followers of Christ. At Confirmation, we have the opportunity to take a second, or Confirmation name, to add to our Baptismal name. Prayerful thought should be put into this decision. This Christian name should express something of your inner self or what you hope to become. It would be a name that signifies your desire to live your life as a disciple of Jesus. This is why many people decide to choose the name of a saint.

In ancient societies, the act of naming a child was very important and usually had a religious significance. The name was intended to express the very essence of the person and was thought to direct the person's destiny. Most often it was the name of a canonized saint.

It is interesting to note the Bible stories of people whose names were changed. Abram's name was changed to Abraham to signify his new identity as the Father of God's people. Jacob's name was changed to Israel to signify the nation that would be made up of his descendants. The name of the apostle Simon was changed to Peter, the rock upon whom Jesus would build His Church. The name of Saul was changed to Paul, signifying his conversion to Christ.

The name you will choose for your Confirmation will be the name by which the Bishop will address you at your Confirmation ceremony. Some people choose their Christian, Baptismal name as their Confirmation name, or you may select a new, Christian name. In either case, this name would signify your resolve and commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus and member of the Church.

We are all called to become saints, to be perfected in charity, to grow in holiness. Not only are we called, it is now made possible through Jesus Christ. For that reason, the church prefers you to choose the name of a saint with whom you share something significant. Perhaps their feast day is your birthday or they are the Patron Saint of something important to you or represents who you are.

You may wish to honor a deceased loved one who was a positive role model in your life by choosing their Christian name. We realize that there are many wonderful people in the world that we may look to as role models because of their selfless or charitable acts, but they still have the rest of their lives to lead, so by choosing a canonized saint (the church's role models) you may be confident in their intercession on your behalf to lead you in your desire to follow Christ.

Candidate's Name: _____
(Student)

Candidate's Confirmation Name: _____

Please follow these directions when writing your Confirmation Name Paper:

- **This should be a well thought out, complete paragraph.**
- **A complete paragraph includes at least the following:**
 - **One opening sentence**
 - **Three supporting sentences**
 - **One concluding sentence**
- **Explain why you chose the name. This should be something of sincere importance to you.**
- **How will this name help you to live as a disciple of Christ and member of His Church.**
- **Neatly write your complete paragraph on the reverse side of this form.**
- **OR - Type and attach a separate sheet of paper.**
- **Be sure that your name is on all papers.**
- ***Papers that do not meet these requirements will be returned.**

~OVER~

