CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME STARTS HERE:



THE SIGNIFICANCE of NAMES in the BIBLE

In Scripture, the giving of a name was an important task for a parent. To bestow a upon a child was to have responsibility for that person and to give them a quality or purpose into which to grow.

Examples:

- The name **David** means *"beloved."* King David was known to be "**a man after God's own heart**" – beloved.
- Jesus named Peter **Cephas**, "***Rock***" *since* Peter's faith was to be the rock upon which the Church would be built.
- **Jesus**' own name describes his mission as the one through whom "**God saves**" us.

Name Changes in the BIBLE

Throughout the Bible God often changed a person's name. The purpose of the name change by God was

1. to reflect that the person's relationship with God had deepened or that God had called that person to a new purpose or mission;
2. to provide the person with a security that God had everything under control and would help them with the mission he had called them to;
3. to serve as a reminder that the person is not who they used to be. A name change signifies that a person has experienced a spiritual transformation and is different than they had been prior to their transformation.

Examples:

- Abram's name was changed to Abraham when God promised he would become "the Father of a host of Nations."
- Jacob's name was changed to Israel as he "struggled' to accept God's call to lead God's people.
- Saul's name was changed to Paul upon his conversion to belief in Christ as the Messiah.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

So, to begin the process of choosing a new name for yourself at this important time, turn to the One who has called you . . . God. Ask that he reveal to you the name he wants you to have. Then trust that he will let you know it.

Allow yourself time throughout this year to read about the saints (*See suggested sites below.*)
When you come to a saint whose story stands out to you over all the others, that is most probably the name God wants you to have. Then, spend some time reading about that saint, praying to that saint for their support and help as you make this important step in your relationship with God at Confirmation. Find, or make up your own prayer, to this saint; use it regularly as you continue to prepare for the Holy Spirit's gifts at Confirmation.

As a candidate for Confirmation, you have three options regarding your Confirmation name.

1. **Keep your Baptismal name**. This shows the connection between Baptism and Confirmation as Sacraments of Initiation. If you decide to be Confirmed using your Baptismal name, do some research. Ask your parents why they chose that name for you.
   Did they name you after a relative? Why that relative?
   What qualities did that person have that they wanted for you?

If your baptismal name is a saint's name, research that saint and make some notes that include the following:

- **Who are they?**
- **When did they live?**
- **Where were they from?**
- **Summarize their life story?**
- **Summarize their faith story?**
- **What brought them to commit their lives to Christ?**
- **When were they canonized a saint?**
- **What is their feast day?**
- **Find or write a prayer to them that you can use throughout the year of preparation for Confirmation to strengthen your imitation of their faith and your dependance on them.**

Explain why you chose that saint.

2. **Choose a new name from among the many Saints of the Church.**
   You have already learned the importance of names and name changes in Scripture. A new name indicates a new status in your relationship with God, a new mission or strengthened commitment to that relationship. Confirmation certainly does imply that. The choice of a Saint's name is a way to discern the direction of that commitment. Choose a saint whose life models for you the direction you feel called to.

3. **Take some time to research saints' lives.** Use the sites listed here to help focus your study.

   https://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php
   https://ourcatholicfaith.org/patronsaints.html
   https://catholicsaints.info/
   https://mycatholic.life/saints/#gsc.tab=0

   (*Do not use Wikipedia or sites that are not Catholic.*)

*** Once you have found a saint that you are drawn to imitate,**

HAVE A CONVERSATION with your parent/potential sponsor about why you want to choose him/her as your Confirmation Name saint that includes the following:

- **Who are they?**
- **When did they live?**
- **Where were they from?**
- **Summarize their life story?**
- **Summarize their faith story?**
- **What brought them to commit their lives to Christ?**
- **When were they canonized a saint?**
- **What is their feast day?**
- **Find or write a prayer to them that you can use throughout the year of preparation for Confirmation to strengthen your imitation of their faith and your dependence on them.**
- **Explain why YOU chose that saint.**

4. **You may choose the name of a family member** whose faith you admire and wish to imitate, i.e. grandparents, aunt or uncle, sponsor or God parent. Describe the qualities you admire in them. Using the sites and questions in #2, research that person's name.

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