

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

Your name give you an identity; it tells others who you are. When you were baptized your parents choose your name. If you do not know your parent's reason for choosing your name, ask them about it. Now that you are about to be confirmed, you may want to take a new name as a sign of your growth in faith. You can certainly keep your own name; you are encouraged, in fact, to reaffirm your commitment to your faith by retaining your baptismal name. It is a tradition in some families for Confirmation candidates to consider taking a new "Confirmation Name".

The tradition of taking a new name to show a new role can be traced back to the Old Testament. When Abraham was called to lead his people to believe in one God, his name was changed from *Abram* meaning "Father of Many" to *Abraham* meaning "Father of Many Nations". In the New Testament we find *Simon's* name changed to *Peter* meaning "Rock, because he was to become the Rock upon which Jesus found His Church.

Your Confirmation Name should reflect your new role as a mature Christian. Perhaps you would like a name of a person whom you admire (many Confirmation candidates recognizing the growing bond of love with their parents, take a parent's name). The only limit is placed on your choice is that it must be Roman Catholic's Saint's name, or a variation of that name.

After you decided on a name, look up some information on the Saint whose name you chose. Every Saint is known for a particular qualities or virtues. By imitating the qualities of this Saint, ask yourself how you might become a better Christian. You may look on the Internet or stop by the Faith Formation Office. They have books /information on the Saints

Please type on a one page paper explaining your choice, sign it and return to the religious education office or your instructor.