

Choosing a Confirmation Name

Choosing a new name for Confirmation is an ancient and honorable tradition. Taking a new name can be symbolic of a new stage in life. Many of your parents probably participated in this tradition when they were confirmed. It follows in the scriptural tradition of the famous phrase, “I have called you by name (Isaiah 45: 3-4).” In the Hebrew Scriptures, Abram became Abraham, and Jacob became Israel. In the New Testament the tradition continued when Simon was renamed Peter by Jesus (Matthew 16:17), and Saul called Paul (Acts 13:9) by the early Christian community.

Since Vatican II, this is no longer a mandatory practice of the Rite of Confirmation. The Church now invites Candidates to reclaim the name they received at Baptism. This follows since Confirmation is, as taught, the fullness of the Sacrament of Baptism.

If you choose a Confirmation Name, this will be the name the Bishop uses when he confirms you.

As you consider adopting a new name for yourself, use these criterion in your judgment...

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- #1. Do research on the history of your name and any other names you might be considering. Is there someone you were named after? Is there a family history to your name? Are you named after a saint? Pray and let the Holy Spirit guide your research.
- #2. Pick a name that reflects a virtue or value you wish to aspire to. This may be reflected in the person who has that name (it may be a saint or a relative).
- #3. If you are choosing a saint, research that saint’s life well. Use books and on-line resources. Come to know that saint as if s/he were an old friend.
- #4. Once you have made a choice, report it to Tom Rinkoski, the Director of Faith Formation, no later than March 1, 2011. Send an e-mail to Tom at tomrinkoski@yahoo.com stating the following:

- Your name
- I have chosen the Confirmation Name _____
- The reason I chose this name is...

Web Sites Where You Can Find More Information on Saints

American Catholic.org

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/byname.aspx?>

Catholic OnLine

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

Catholic Forum Patron Saints Index

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

Vatican Web Site, Saints Index

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

More on Choosing a Confirmation Name

E-How

http://www.ehow.com/how_2154367_choose-confirmation-name.html

E-Discussion on Confirmation names

<http://www3.fertilethoughts.com/forums/showthread.php?t=409627>

How Fabian Became my Confirmation name

http://blog.blankbaby.com/blankbaby/2005/08/how_fabian_beca.html

Unusual, Unique and Creative Names

<http://www.namenerds.com/uucn/advice/catholic.html>