



January 10, 2017

## Choosing Your Confirmation Name

Your name gives you an identity; it tells others who you are. When you were baptized, your parents chose your name. If you do not know your parents' reason(s) for choosing your name, this is the time to ask them about it. Now that you are about to be confirmed, it is time to affirm the choice of name for you or to choose a name that represents a sign of your growth in faith.

The tradition of being given a name can be traced back to the Old Testament. When Abram was called to lead his people to believe in one God, God changed his name from Abram, meaning "Father of many" to Abraham, meaning "Father of many nations." Again, in the New Testament, we find Jesus changing Simon's name to Peter meaning "rock" because Peter was to become the rock upon which Jesus founded His Church.

Your Confirmation name should reflect your role as a maturing Catholic. We hope you will affirm your baptismal name. Find out what your name means. Does the meaning of your name capture your spirit? Your faith? Is it meaningful to you? If not, you may wish to choose a different Christian name for Confirmation that would be appropriate. Perhaps you would like to take the name of a saint (or saintly person like Mother Theresa) whom you admire.

After you decide on a name, write to us about all the information you used in making your decision. Begin by telling us your baptismal name: how was it chosen for you by your parents and does it fit you? Then tell us if you are affirming that name or selecting a new one and the reason why you wish to take an additional name. Tell us about any saints or saintly persons who have your name of choice. For these people, discuss what special qualities made them saints in the Catholic Church.

This is a paper, not a few sentences or a paragraph. It should be typed and should be a minimum of one page, double spaced, 12 point font. Relating the story of your name should take time. This will be part of your religion curriculum so it will be read and graded by your catechist/teacher.

Please note: This is not just a paper about a saint. This is about YOU and should include information about a saint whose name you share or from which your name is derived.

This paper is due 23 February 2017.