

Why and how to choose a Confirmation name?

At Baptism, you were given a Christian name as a sign of your new identity as a follower of Jesus. At Confirmation, you have the opportunity to take a second, or Confirmation, name to add to your baptismal name. This name should express something of your inner self or what you hope to become—the ideal or goal you are setting for yourself as a Christian.

In ancient societies names held a great significance. The name was intended to express the very essence of the person and was thought to direct the person's destiny. It is interesting to note the Bible stories of people whose names were changed. Abram's name, for example, 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 which Jesus would build his church. The name of Saul was changed to Paul, signifying his conversion to Christ.

In much the same way, the name by which you wish to be called when you are sealed with the Spirit should signify your resolve and commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus and member of the Church. Think about this...

Do you have a relative or friend whom you admire because they live their faith as Jesus did...choose their name for your Confirmation name

Are you interested in a special cause like protecting the environment, caring for the poor, healing the sick? Find out what the patron saint of that cause might be and pick that name. Have you ever read or heard about someone who is a real life hero...choose that name.

The saint whose name you choose can become an intercessor on your behalf in heaven. You simply need to ask them to be your advocate so give this choice some careful thought.

Internet resources that will help you decide which saint's name you would like to choose for Confirmation:

www.catholic.org/saints

<http://saints.sqpn.com/>

Once you have chosen your Confirmation Name write it on your Confirmation Application before you return it to Mrs. Ortwein in the CFF Office.