

CHOOSING YOUR CONFIRMATION NAME



When you are presented for Confirmation, the Bishop will ask for your name. Your name gives you an identity. It tells others who you are. When you were baptized, your parents chose your name. Now that you are to be confirmed, it is time to choose the name you will take as a sign of your growth in faith.

The tradition of taking on a new name to show a new role can be traced back to the Old Testament. When Abram was called to lead his people to believe in the one true God, his name was changed from Abram, meaning "father of many" to Abraham, meaning "father of many nations".

Again, in the New Testament, we find Simon's name changed to Peter, meaning "rock", because he was to become the rock upon which Jesus founded His Church.

You may use your name given at Baptism or may choose another name. If another name is chosen, it should be someone who has lived a model Christian Life. It should have a special meaning and express something of what you hope to become as you celebrate Confirmation and promise to live as a fully committed Christian.

Too often, people choose a name because it "sounds nice." Hollywood Stars often do that to start their careers. That's really missing the point of taking a "new" name as a Christian. Choose a name that will help you feel proud of being identified as a follower of Jesus Christ. Reaffirm your Baptismal name or choose another. The only limit that is placed on your choice is that it should be a saint's name. This saint should become a model and intercessor for you.

Think it over. Ask advice from your sponsor and parents. Your name should challenge you to grow in imitation of someone you hold as a model of the life that Jesus lived.

FULL BAPTISMAL NAME (include last name)

CONFIRMATION NAME: _____ IF YOU CHOOSE TO RETAIN YOUR BAPTISMAL NAME PLEASE REALIZE THAT YOU WILL BE CALLED BY YOUR FIRST NAME ONLY, BOTH ON THE CONFIRMATION STOLE AND BY THE BISHOP. Example: Baptismal Name - John Francis Smith/Confirmation Name - John. The Bishop will say "John" and the stole will read "John". The program, certificate and register will read JOHN Francis Smith.

If you chose the name of a specific person or saint who is/was that person or saint?

This person or saint is (was) known for: (List his/her qualities and accomplishments):

My attraction to this person or saint is because: _____

"I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME, YOU ARE MINE"

ISAIAH 43:1