

KNOW MY SAINT

Confirmande Name _____

Confirmation Patron Saint Name _____

What impressed you most about your Confirmation Patron Saint:

What example has your Saint given you as a model of Christian life?

Draw a picture or symbol that represents your patron saint.

Need help finding your patron saint.... Check these websites out....

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

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

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

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

FORM DUE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH.

Q: Why do we choose a Saint's name at Confirmation? What is the purpose?

Well you see the practice originally began in a small Midwestern town not too far from Fargo, North Dakota where all the young children by sheer coincidence had been named by their parents the same name, Gretchen. Now having an entire town with the generation of the children named, Gretchen, as lovely as that name is, was a bit confusing. They would call out their names in classrooms and all of them would raise their hands! It got out of control. So they came up with the idea that on their Confirmation they would each receive a different name, a name of a saint, and they would all be called by these new names and end the time of confusion. And so the town was saved and the people rejoiced.

Okay, now for the real answer. The receiving of a name at Confirmation has a number of different sources in the history of the Church. But the biggest one comes from the idea of a name being associated with a change of life. When Jesus told Simon that his new name was now Peter (Matthew 16:18), it was because his role was changing and he was going to be asked to take on a role of leadership. When Saul had his great conversion, the risen Lord gave him the name Paul (Acts 13:9). And there are a number of others that we see this happen to as well because there is a power in a name. If we look back at the Old Testament, to name someone was to have ownership of them, which is why when Moses asked God in the burning bush who was sending him to Pharaoh, God didn't give him his name, He gave him his title, "I am who am" (Exodus 3:14). So to take on a new name at confirmation also carries with it the idea that you are asking for the Lord to change you. To take ownership of you like He's never done before and to live your faith more fully and with more life than you ever could've imagined.

The name of the saint also should have some significance to you, that particular saint is an example of the type of holiness you would like. Some people take St. Francis because they want to be kind to animals, or some people take St. Joseph because they want to be as holy as he was, or some people take St. Monica because she had such patience with her children, and the list could go on. The idea is to pick somebody who says something about you. And when you stand before the Bishop the day of your Confirmation and you tell him your name, say it with a pride and with a conviction and with knowledge that the Holy Spirit is going to change you forever.