Choosing a Confirmation Name

Choosing a Confirmation name is not something to be taken lightly, and candidates traditionally choose the name of a saint for their Confirmation name. More recently candidates have been choosing names of relatives, etc who inspire them. *There is no problems with this either* – The criteria is
Someone who inspires you in your Faith.

Choosing a Confirmation name is an important part of preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. You should take the decision seriously and work hard to find a saint or relative whose life is truly inspiring.

Taking a Confirmation name is a sign of starting a new life. In the Old Testament God gave new names to some of the people he called to serve him, eg. Abram became Abraham. Jesus also gave new names to some of the apostles whom he called to serve him, eg. Simon became Peter and Levi became Matthew.

Until recently people entering religious life *(nuns and brothers)* took a new name as a sign of starting a new life. It is also common for actors and singers to take a new name when starting out on a new stage career.

At Confirmation we choose a new name. It is a sign that we are ready to start a new life. We are ready to begin living in a new way. *We are ready to serve God.*

Therefore when choosing a Confirmation name, don't choose one based on how different the name itself might sound. While this might amuse you and your friends, as you and your faith grow you might eventually regret choosing a name for such a silly reason. Also don't pick a sports star just because they are a good player or a singer because you like their song!! Though it's ok to choose a name that is extraordinary, just be certain you're doing it for the right reasons.

God calls on each of us to fulfil a special mission. It may be helping the poor, being a peacemaker or one of many other callings.

Confirmation may be the continuation of a mission you began at Baptism, or the beginning of a new mission. Choosing the name can be a commitment and a reminder to ourselves of the difference we want to make or the talents we want to bring to others.

Therefore there are two options when deciding on a Confirmation name:

First- Because Confirmation is the strengthening of the work that God began in your life at your Baptism, you can use your Baptismal name (Or a version of it) for Confirmation. This shows the integral link between Baptism and Confirmation *(note: this applies if your Baptismal name was a Saint's name.)*

Second- Perhaps you see Confirmation as the beginning of a new mission for you and a fresh beginning in your faith journey. Then you may choose a new name for Confirmation. Your Confirmation name should be that of a saint you admire or the name of someone you know and look up to as a Christian role-model.

Once you have chosen your Confirmation name, do a bit of research and complete a biography of that saint/relative. What about them inspires you?

Six steps in Choosing your Confirmation Name

1

Research. There are literally thousands of resources for information on saints. The public library is a good place to start to find books, or you could ask if your parish has a library. If so, they will have books on the lives of saints. The Internet is full of information about every topic you can name, so you could also go online.

2

Decide what is most important and applicable to you in your life. Your saint, relative should help you to live as good a lifestyle as possible, so choose a saint who inspires you and whom you admire. Saint Joan of Arc, for example, is remembered for her great bravery and love for God. Saint Agnes of Rome was only twelve when she was martyred for her devotion to God. Saint Tarcisius was a martyr of twelve, killed because he would not give up the Holy Eucharist. St Francis was known for his love of animals and the poor. In your faith, what do you aspire to do? Let your aspirations and hopes guide you in choosing

3

Inquire and discuss. Don't be shy to talk about your options with your parents, your sponsor, your teacher, your priest, etc… They will be flattered that you asked and may provide some insight.

4

Report. Don't forget to inform your Confirmation teacher about the saint that you chose. It is important that everyone is prepared before the bishop arrives on the big day.

5

Be proud. When you speak your confirmation name and the bishop confirms you in that name, you will know that you made the choice of the Holy Spirit.

6

Live it. Call on your patron saint, say a prayer from time to time, for guidance and inspiration in leading as good a life as you can!! Remember you can and do make a big difference!!