

# A Rite of Confirmation

## Your Confirmation Name

Almost everyone has at least two names: a first name and a last name. Your first name tells others who you are. Your last name tells others the family to which you belong. Names are a sign of power. When you were baptized, all sin was forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. You were given a “Christian” name, often the name of one of the saints or heroes of the Bible, who became your “patron.” You can find many examples in the New Testament of the Apostles’ curing and forgiving in the name of Jesus. And you probably remember Bible stories in which a person’s name was changed to show that he or she had entered into a new relationship with God.

Your Confirmation is an opportunity to enter into a new relationship with God and with the Church. One Confirmation custom is to choose a new name to symbolize this relationship. This “Confirmation Name” is used in the ceremony. You may even choose to use your Baptismal name, if you like, because there is a close connection between Baptism and Confirmation.



“Be Sealed with the Holy Spirit”

Jesus said to the disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Simon answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you; from now on you will be called Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:15-18

# **Confirmation Name Selection/Report**

*Answer the following questions to yourself. Talk over your answers with your family and sponsor. Use reference books or the Internet if necessary. A good website on Saints and their names is <http://www.catholic.org/ccc/survey/survey.php> or use a search engine and search for "Catholic Online Saints."*

1. What is your complete Baptismal name?
2. Why did your parents give you these names?
3. What do your names mean?
4. What name do you like your friends to call you? Why?
5. What would you like your Confirmation Name to be?
6. If you choose to honor a saint by choosing his/her name, what impresses you most about this person?
7. What can you do to live up to the name that you are going to use for Confirmation?

**Now that you have reflected on your name, the names of others, and chosen a Confirmation name, write a short paper, a couple of paragraphs, answering the above questions. Be sure to address all of the 7 questions above in your paper, do NOT just list answers to the questions. Involving your parents in this process is important!**

**This paper is due on Sunday, October 16, 2011.**