

## **“WHAT’S IN A NAME”**

*{Read thoroughly before choosing your Saint name for Confirmation}*

Your name gives you an identity: it tells others who you are. When you were baptized, your parents chose your name. If you do not know your parent’s reasons for choosing your name, ask them about it. Now that you are about to be confirmed it is time for you 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 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.

Choosing a name symbolizes power or dominion, as in Genesis where God gave man the power to name and have dominion over each of the animals on the earth. In conjunction with this power is responsibility...the responsibility of taking care of whatever is named. God entrusts each of us with this responsibility as well as the power.

Your Confirmation name should reflect your new role as a mature Christian, a symbol of what your Confirmation means to you. It should not be taken lightly and should not be chosen for frivolous reasons (*“It looks nice with my first name” or “It sounds pretty”*). Perhaps you would like to take the name of a person whom you admire. (*Many Confirmation Candidates, recognizing the growing bond of love with their parents, new relationship with aunts, uncles or godparents, take their names*). The Candidate *may* also choose his or her own baptismal name or any Saint’s name.

After deciding on your name, try to recognize the particular qualities or virtues that make this person unique or special. How can you imitate or acquire these qualities or virtues and make them part of your life? How can you become a better Christian? The only limit that is placed on your choice of names is that it must be a saint’s name or a derivative of a saint’s name.