

## CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

Your name gives you identity. It tells others who you are. When you were baptized, your parents chose your name. If you do not know your parents' reason for choosing your name, ask them about it. Now you are about to be confirmed. It is a time to choose the name you will take as a sign of your growth in the faith.

In order to show the close relationship between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, it is preferred that you retain your baptismal name. However, a special name may be chosen if desired. It is strongly recommended that this name be the name of a saint, one with whom you can identify and imitate. The tradition of taking a new name can be traced back to the Old Testament when God changed Abram's name to Abraham, to show that this man had a new and special role to live for the Lord. Abraham means, "father of many nations." Again in the New Testament, Jesus changed the name of His apostle, Simon, to Peter, meaning "the Rock," symbolic of the strength and power of Jesus' Church, which was formed by Peter, the first Pope.

Many candidates for Confirmation realize the growing bond of love and appreciation between themselves and their parents, who first introduced them to the Catholic Christian faith through Baptism. These candidates sometimes choose the name of the parent for Confirmation and strive to live their religion as their parents do. If some other individual, perhaps your sponsor, has a really strong influence on your life and been an excellent example to you, you may wish to choose his or her name.

Candidates Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (middle) (last)

Confirmation Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please write a paragraph explaining why you chose this name: