Choosing a Confirmation/Saint Name

In the book of Isaiah we read, "I have called you by name: you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1). Your name was spoken aloud on the day of your baptism, and it became part of your identity as God's child and a member of the Catholic Church. A great deal of thought went into your parents' choice in naming you. You may be named after a relative, a special family friend or a saint your parents admire. Now that you have decided to become confirmed, you can think in a new way about your name and how it relates to your faith journey.

As a candidate for the celebration of the sacrament of confirmation, you have two options concerning the choice of a confirmation name:

1. Use your baptismal name (your regular first name) – as long it is a saint's name that can be chosen as a role model and researched. This shows the connection with the first and second part of your initiation into the Catholic Church – baptism and First Eucharist. To use your present baptismal name would demonstrate that you feel there has been a continual growth in your faith and you now wish to make this formal through Confirmation.

2. Choose a saint's name that would symbolize a new beginning in your faith life and a connection with that saint. This would be especially true if you are not sure that you have been particularly strong in your faith and are now making a renewed commitment to the Catholic faith. This commitment would be symbolized by the new name you choose, to show that in some ways you are now a new person. This new name would be used after your present middle name and before your family name (last name).

3. Write down a few of your best virtues, which will help guide you to a Saint name. Before you decide on a name, take the time to do some research. Pray! As you would pray about any decision, ask the Holy Spirit to help guide you to a Saint who represents you.

4. You may also choose a Saint who is of a different gender than you as your role model, but you cannot change the name to be masculine or feminine to match your gender.

There are many online resources available to help you pick a Saint name. Here are a few to get you started. The Shining Light/Fun and Faith link has short audio clips for you to listen and learn about over 125 Saints.

Catholic Online	https://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php
Shining Light	https://soundcloud.com/user-84758912-221844386
LifeTeen Catholic	www.lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/

Questions? Contact Kim Kroeze/RE Coordinator Grades 6-8
kkroeze@hscc.us / 630-922-0081, ext. 221