

## Choosing a Confirmation Name

*“In order to emphasize the close relationship between Confirmation and Baptism, it is preferred that candidates retain their baptismal names. However, a special name may be chosen if desired... If a baptismal name is a name foreign to Christian sensibility, then it is advisable that a name be chosen which reflects a recognized saint of the Church, a person from Scripture or a Christian role model. [cf Canon #855]*

### **History behind the Confirmation Name**

The tradition of selecting a Saint’s name for Confirmation grew out of a pre-Vatican II practice that asked Confirmandi to select a Saint’s name to be invoked during the Rite of Confirmation. Some of your parents and grandparents may have been required to do this. However, since Vatican II, this practice is no longer a requirement of the Rite of Confirmation. **THE CHURCH INVITES CANDIDATES TO KEEP THE NAME GIVEN TO THEM AT BAPTISM. THE REASON IS THAT CONFIRMATION IS THE FULLNESS OR COMPLETION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM.** Neither the Rite of Confirmation nor the Code of Canon Law refers to the custom of selecting a Confirmation name. The Rite simply refers to the candidate being “called by name.” The presumption is that the Candidate is called by the name given at the time of Baptism. The Baptismal promises your parents made on your behalf when you were a child are renewed at Confirmation.

### **The Saint Reflection**

Whatever name you decide on, your own Baptismal name or that of a favorite Saint, we ask that you explore how this holy person, this Saint, offers you witness to walk more closely with Christ during the Confirmation preparation process.

Find out if you were named after a beloved family member or favorite saint; or, research the roots of your name as a derivative of a Christian name.

Whatever name you decide on for Confirmation, tell us explicitly either:

1. For Confirmation, I am taking the name of ... because **OR**  
For Confirmation, I am affirming my Baptismal name of ... because....
2. Description of the life of the Saint/name you chose
3. Reflect on the qualities of the Saint that you wish to emulate in your life

**YOUR REFLECTION SHOULD BE AT LEAST ONE-PAGE AND TYPED**  
**DUE ON WEDNESDAY, March 11th**

**Online Resources:** Here are some good places to start:

<https://info.franciscanmedia.org/>

<http://www.catholic.org/saints>

<https://mycatholic.life/saints/>

<http://www.catholicsaints.info/>

There are also several books in the Youth and Family Ministry Library and the Youth Office. Contact Wyatt if you would like to take a look at them.

## Writing a Letter to the Archbishop Requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation

All Confirmation candidates will write a well-written, typed letter to Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller. This letter should explain what Confirmation means to you personally and why you wish to be confirmed. The purpose of this letter is to help clarify what is happening in your faith life and express your readiness of receiving the sacrament.

**When writing your letter be sure to include the following elements:**

### **Greeting:**

- Date
- Address letter to “Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller”

### **Body of the Letter:**

- Paragraph 1:
  - Tell the Archbishop about yourself (where you go to school, family, interests, etc.)
  - Request the Sacrament of Confirmation and explain what it means to you.
  - Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.
  - Consider the gifts of the Holy Spirit which you receive at confirmation (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, right judgment, courage, reverence, wonder and awe). You may explain how some of these gifts will help you in certain situations in your life.
- Paragraph 2:
  - Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament (Life Teen, Confirmation sessions and retreat, parish involvement, faith shared with your family, etc.)
  - Describe your personal prayer life and how you have grown in your relationship with Christ.
  - Tell about the service that you have done and how the work has impacted you.
- Paragraph 3:
  - Explain how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others.
  - Describe how you plan to be more like Jesus in your community at home, school, work, church, etc.
  - Tell how you will be an active member of the Catholic Church beyond Confirmation (receive the sacraments, liturgical ministries such as lectoring or being a Eucharistic minister, attendance at Life Teen, etc.)

### **Conclusion:**

- Briefly conclude the letter
- Sign the letter with your hand-written signature and include your typed name below it.

Remember that your letter should be one-page and typed. Font size no larger than 12. Please make sure to check your spelling and grammar. **The letter is due no later than Wednesday, March 11th.**