

Taking a new name can be symbolic of a new stage in life, and there is a biblical history of individuals whose names changed when their life mission changed: Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter, and Saul to Paul. This precedent was one reason members of many religious orders chose "religious" names when pronouncing vows. But the celebration of confirmation is a time to reaffirm one's baptism and thus should not be seen so much as a new stage of Christian life but as an opportunity to deepen the graces of baptism. Celebrating the sacrament of confirmation can be an opportunity for candidates to reflect on what baptism and union with Christ should mean in their lives. It can also be an occasion for the candidates to reflect on how they should live out their baptismal commitment in the future, imitating the holy men and women of previous ages.

There may, however, be appropriate and pastoral reasons for someone to choose another patron saint and use this saint's name when being confirmed. This name, freely chosen and reflecting the candidate's devotion to a saint, can be a sign of commitment to living as a Christian in today's world under the patronage of someone they admire. Such a confirmation name would be used in addition to the baptismal name, not in place of it, and would be the name of a saint to whom the person being confirmed has a particular devotion. On the other hand, for most individuals, using the baptismal name alone can be a powerful reaffirmation of who they are as Christians. The decision to choose a special patron (and name) at confirmation or to honor the name received at baptism should always be considered a secondary aspect of the celebration. What is ultimately being celebrated is God's commitment to each baptized Christian through the gift of the Holy Spirit; a reality that should never be overshadowed, no matter what name is used!

If you are taking a *new* name as your Confirmation name:

- 1) The name must be that of a canonized (or status of Blessed) Catholic saint. OR it must be one of the theological virtues (Faith, Hope, Charity)**
- 2) Your Saint Profile must be about your saint or theological virtue and you must clearly indicate what it is about this saint you admire and why you are choosing their name.**