

# Choosing Your Confirmation Name & Saint

One of the traditional practices in the church at the time of confirmation is choosing a confirmation name. If your baptismal name is a Christian one, you might want to recommit yourself to it, especially after you reflect on its meaning and discover some of the great people who shared your name in Christian history. After all, confirmation is really the completion of the Baptism experience.

A Christian name should be chosen not only because of the meaning of the name, but also because it is the name of a saint whose life carries some special meaning for you. You might want to choose the name of a saint who represents the type of Christian you wish to be. Maybe he or she had the same struggles as you and had a way of working with those struggles that you admire.

A number of Scripture passages illustrate that a new name symbolizes the taking on of a new nature or the anointing by God for a special purpose. Also, monks embraced this idea from the very earliest times. For example, a monk would not only take the name of a saint, but would also study the saint's life in order to be able to imitate him. By taking a new name, a monk was showing that he intended to leave his former life behind him and become a new man completely devoted to the service of Christ.

Genesis 17:1-7	You will be called Abraham	Isaiah 62:1-5	You will be called by a new name
Revelation 3:11-13	I will write my new name upon	John 1:40-42	You will be called Peter

By taking a new name at confirmation, we are simply following a time-honored tradition -- and quite a valid one in view of the fact that the sacrament of confirmation confers upon us a new task and a more mature sense of discipleship.

As you read about the lives of the saints, you will find that the spiritual life and lifestyles of the saints will be quite varied. Some saints spent hours in contemplative prayer; other saints led active lives of charity, and had little time for contemplation. Some of the saints were poor saints (Francis of Assisi and Clare); there were brilliant saints (Thomas Aquinas) and dense saints (Joseph Cupertino); there were jolly saints (Lawrence, Theresa of Avila) and neurotic saints (Therese of Lisieux); young saints (Agnes and Aloysius) and old saints (Anthony of the desert); there were sinner saints (Augustine) and innocent saints (Kateri Tekakwitha); there were patient saints (Alphonsus Liguori) and saints who had a problem with sarcasm and temper (Jerome). They became saints not because of their character or natural inclination, but because -- in many cases -- they overcame their natural inclinations by grace and virtue.

Saints were ordinary people (like you and I) who strove to do God's will. We can find some good models among the saints as one means of growth in spiritual maturity. Mother Teresa aptly put it after a TV interviewer questioned her: "What are you trying to do, become a saint?" She responded, "Yes. Shouldn't we all?"

## Internet resources for oral and written saints' reports:

### Saints info, Catholic world news, magazine articles

[www.catholic.org/media/news/current.html](http://www.catholic.org/media/news/current.html)

### General Catholic topics

[www.catholiccity.com](http://www.catholiccity.com)

### Catholic Podcasting

[www.SaintCast.org](http://www.SaintCast.org)

### Good Catholic Website

[www.cin.org](http://www.cin.org)

### Bible timeline, significant events, keeping Catholics Catholic, etc.

[www.geocities.com/Athens/Ithaca/6461/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Ithaca/6461/index.html)

### Nazareth Resources

[www.cin.org/users/james/index.htm](http://www.cin.org/users/james/index.htm)

### Catholic Answers – Carl Keating – apologetics

[www.catholic.com](http://www.catholic.com)

### Sunday readings

[www.gnm.org/](http://www.gnm.org/)

### New Advent – connections to other Catholic web sites

[www.newadvent.org/](http://www.newadvent.org/)

### National Conference of Catholic Bishops

[www.usccb.org/](http://www.usccb.org/)

[www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)

[www.stthomasirondequoit.org/](http://www.stthomasirondequoit.org/)

[www.feastofsaints.com/links.htm](http://www.feastofsaints.com/links.htm)

[www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm](http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm)

# Reflection on the Saints

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of book or internet source about the saint: \_\_\_\_\_

**The saint's name I have chosen for my Confirmation name is:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINT CLEARLY** -- This is the name that will go on your confirmation certificate. Please be clear as to whether you want the complete or partial name, as in 'Teresa of Avilla or Teresa, John Bosco or John.)

**Symbol for the saint:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tell briefly about the life experiences of the saint.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What did he/she do that made him/her a saint?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What virtues did this saint best exemplify? In what ways?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Was there a time when the saint was not so virtuous? If yes, explain:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What, if anything, brought about a change in this saint's life?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Did this saint die for the Faith? \_\_\_\_ What were the circumstances of the saint's death?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What has this saint given us to help us be better Christians? (For example, the saint wrote books, founded an order, wrote prayers or music, taught children.) Be specific.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What do you admire about this saint? How might you model your life after him or her? Please type 1 page to attach to this report.**