

# Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation Name

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF A NAME**

Names have always been an important part of our faith. God Himself said, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine” [Isaiah 43:1].

A new name has often signified a drawing closer to God, as with Abram becoming Abraham [Genesis 17:5], Jacob becoming Israel [Genesis 35:10], and Simon becoming Peter [John 1:42].

It has never been uncommon for priests and religious to take a new name upon entering the religious life, and Popes take a new name as well—the choice of **Francis** by our current Holy Father sent a clear message as to the kind of Pope he would be.

## **CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME**

In choosing a Confirmation Name, it is quite meaningful if the Candidate keeps his/her **Baptismal Name** as his/her Confirmation Name.

A **Saint’s Name** is another possibility. Bishop Michael Kennedy suggests very strongly that the Saint must be a **Catholic Saint**. This is so important that the priest is asked by the Bishop to make sure that this is adhered to.

*“Do NOT choose a name just because the person is popular or famous or because the name sounds good. The name you choose is for life! So it should be after a person whom you really admire for their Christian life of goodness, charity and holiness, preferably a saint or a blessed. It’s not just about a name you like but a person whose whole life shows how a true friend of Jesus really lives.” [Bishop Edward Scharfenberger]*

The most important part of choosing a Confirmation name is to pray; ask the Holy Spirit to guide your choice.