

CALLED BY NAME

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

These words of God through the prophet Isaiah are powerful ones indeed. They tell us of a God who knows us so personally and deeply that he calls us by name.

At the beginning of the rite of Baptism the celebrant asked your parents: What name do you give your child? And your parents spoke your name. From that moment on in the rite you were always called by this name. Parents are encouraged to give their child the name of a saint (for at least one of the names.) Why do you think the Church suggests this? It is so that you will have a specific friend in heaven to be your guide throughout life.

In the rite of Confirmation, you are again called by name. The Church encourages you to use the saint's name given to you at Baptism as your Confirmation name to emphasize the strong connection between these two sacraments. If your baptismal name is not a saint's name, you are to choose one for Confirmation. When the sacrament of Confirmation is conferred, you will stand before the minister of Confirmation. He will then make the sign of the cross on your forehead with chrism saying, (Your name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Making the Decision

Whether you use your baptismal name or choose a new one, it is important to learn as much as you can about your patron saint. After all, you are asking this saint to be your friend and advocate for the rest of your life.

Catholic.org/saints: One of many resources online for information on the saints. Remember, you are asked to write an essay on the saint you chose because it can help you learn about, and personally identify with, the holy men and women of the Church.

Write a short essay on the saint that you chose for your confirmation name. In this essay talk about the life of the saint you chose. Include a paragraph explaining why you choose this saint for your Confirmation name.