**Information on Saint Name Report**

Catholic Saints are often associated with specific causes, historically people have prayed to these Saints asking them to intercede on their behalf to God for them. We, as Catholics remember Saints on the day they died or were canonized (became Saints). The remembrance on the date of death is significant because as Catholics, we recognize that in dying a person rises again with God.

Some of you may have chosen your Confirmation (Saint) name already, some of you may still be deciding. If you were given a saints’ name when you were born, you may use that name for example: Mary, Elizabeth, Stephen, or Joseph, etc, you do not need to choose a different name unless you want to. The name you choose is a very personal decision. You should have some feelings for this individual:

* Is the Saint of significance to you or your family?
* Were you born on their feast day?
* Is it also the name of your sponsor or another important person in your life?
* Is he/she the patron Saint of your heritage?
* Do you and that Saint share a career/ministry/goal?

There are many people in your life that walk with God, they may not be canonized, but in living lives of service to Christ and his people they are *“Saint Like”,* you may choose to honor them by taking their name. For example, if your sponsor is your uncle Thomas, there are several Saints named Thomas in the history of the Catholic Church, St. Thomas More was a chancellor for the Church; while St. Thomas the Apostle was a disciple of Jesus. Both men play a significant role in the history of the church, should you take the name Thomas, you can write about either of the two Saints, how their love of God and faith shaped their lives, for example. When naming you at birth, your parents had similar conversations and thoughts; the Church is now asking you to take the same time to consider your Confirmation name.

Please remember that the name you choose is the one you will be presented to the bishop with and be using when sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation. (The gifts of the Holy Spirit will be discussed in class; a list is attached for your information).

**Assignment:**

Research the Saint name that you have chosen. There are several web sites (see other side) that have factual information on Saints. Think about characteristics you have in common with them.

Your report needs to be typed; Font, Times New Roman 12, double spaced; include a cover with your name, the Saint’s name and a picture of the Saint either drawn or copied, **please staple** your report – **do not bind** it in a plastic cover. Your opening paragraph should have a brief history of his/her life. Followed by 2 paragraphs explaining why and how you would like to emulate this individual. Did they teach or serve the poor; did they fight to bring Christ into the lives of others? Is the name significant to you, why? Do you enjoy acting, aspire to teach, come from a heritage with a specific patron Saint? The concluding paragraph should reflect on why this Saint is important to you. Your reasons can be simple; “I chose St. Bridget, because that was my Grandmother’s name,” or “in researching St. Bridget, I found that she was a nun and teacher”. Go on to say how you would like to live your life like she lived hers.

This assignment must be in your own words, and should be about 1 ½ to 2 pages (not including the cover page). Please have your work proofread. The reports will be forwarded to the person interviewing you.

If you have any additional questions, please call the Religious Education Office 973-376-2061.

**Web Sites to Check Out:**

http://www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/patrons.aspx

www.newadvent.org

http://www.vatican.va

**Examples of Patron Saints and their Causes:**

St. Matthew Accountants

St. Genesius Actors

St. Thomas More Attorneys

St. Nicholas of Tolentino Babies

St. Martin de Porres Barbers

St. Joseph Patron Saint of China

St. Andrew, St. Peter, St. Paul Fishermen

St. Benedict Homeless

St. Brigid of Kildare Nuns

St. Michael Police Officers

St. Andrew Russia

St. George Soldiers

St. Dismis Undertakers

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Teenagers

**Gifts of the Holy Spirit:**

1. **Wisdom:** The power to judge things in light of God’s standards and to make decisions and act according to God’s law.
2. **Understanding:** The power to better understand the mysteries of the religion, to know how to live life as follower of Jesus, and to apply the teachings of the Church.
3. **Right Judgment:** The power to make good decisions in matters of right and wrong, good and evil.
4. **Courage:** The power to stand up for your beliefs and the value of Jesus’ message even when it is difficult.
5. **Knowledge:** The power to know the value and worth of created things and see all of life and creation through God’s eyes.
6. **Reverence:** The power to treat God and people with honor, seeing people as made in God’s image.
7. **Wonder and Awe:** The power to recognize how awesome God is and go recognize this awe in his creation.