Confirmation Candidate – Project #2

My Guides in the Faith

Therefore, encourage and build up one another, just as you are doing."
~ St. Paul’s Letter to the Thessalonians 5:11

As part of our Confirmation tradition, we seek the support of role models in two ways:
Saint and Sponsor

SAINT: Traditionally at Confirmation, the Candidate takes the name of a person who has faithfully followed Jesus and has been recognized by the Church in a very special way. There is a process by which the Church declares, or canonizes, a person a Saint which begins five years after the person has died. It can take many, many years and involves several factors, but these are the steps. The name of any person with one of these distinctions may be chosen for your Confirmation saint.

Servant of God: A person is named a Servant of God once the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has approved a bishop’s request that the person be considered for sainthood.

Venerable: Once the person’s virtues have been recognized by the Pope, they are named Venerable or Venerable Servant of God.

Blessed: With the beatification rite, conducted on authority of the Pope, the person is declared Blessed.

Saint: With the Rite of Canonization, the Pope declares the person a Saint.

SPONSOR: We never travel this life or this faith journey alone. In our Tradition, we choose a person who lives the Catholic faith and acts as a support and spiritual guide for us. This person can be a friend or relative who you feel comfortable talking with and asking questions. Your parents are there too, but they cannot be your Sponsor. This person must be at least 16 years of age and a Confirmed Catholic.
What to do next . . .

**PRAY** – Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in choosing a saint and sponsor who is best for you.

**RESEARCH**: Talk to your parents and other family members about models of faith that they look towards for guidance. Ask them about potential sponsors. Find books on the saints. Look online

POSSIBLE ONLINE RESOURCES FOR NAME RESEARCH
http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/patrons.aspx
http://www.aquinasandmore.com/fuseaction/store.patronsaintlist
http://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php

Google: saint + (patron of _____)

**REVIEW**: Take out your Confirmation binder and look at your notes from the Small Faith Group Gathering.

**TYPE**: Your answers to these questions in a written paper, one page or less – DO NOT HANDWRITE:

**SAINT:**

a. What was my model of faith’s life like before they were set on the path of sainthood?
b. Why am I drawn to this person? What interests do they have in common with me?
c. How does this model of faith inspire me? Do I feel comfortable asking this person to pray for me? To “have my back” spiritually?

**SPONSOR:**

d. Why did I choose this person as my sponsor? Why are they a model of the faith to me?
e. How did they react when I asked them?