

LESSON SIX



Becoming a Saint

You have chosen a sponsor for your baptism and/or confirmation, and you have scheduled a date for the event with the parish; you have gotten all the necessary paper work in, and we are nearly done. It won't be long now before you have become a Catholic in the fullness of that term. In the earliest days of the Church the apostles and fathers of the Church would talk about those within the Church as being saints, and certainly it is true that as a Catholic you will be numbered among many saints. Still, your life will also be a sign to others, and all Catholics should endeavor to be holy (which is the meaning of

the word “saint”). That having been said, it is also important to choose a saint’s name for your confirmation, and this requires you to know a little about the countless saints in the Catholic Church. Most people choose a saint that they are particularly close to them, or that represents some virtue they wish to achieve. The choosing of a saint’s name for confirmation is not an unimportant responsibility, and you need to know something about the saint you choose, and be able to articulate why you chose that saint as a patron saint. The saints are Catholic heroes and heroines, and they are friends in heaven. Most people ask their friends for their prayers, and some of our friends just happen to be in heaven already.

The most important saint in heaven is by far the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is every Catholic’s favorite, and most of us offer a Hail Mary prayer up at least once a day. The affection and devotion that the Catholic has for the Blessed Virgin can be a good sign as to the real health and vigor of their own faith, and while it is true any good thing can be taken too far, a healthy respect and love for the Virgin Mary is something every Catholic should endeavor to achieve in his or her own life. This may come in stages over your life, but whatever you do don’t imagine that it is not important. The goal is to balance our devotion to Our Lady and the other saints within a proper hierarchy of values. Still, Mary is the queen of the saints, and there can be no denying her importance in our human history and in our Church.

Homework Follows

- You have already chosen a sponsor or godparent, but now you must choose a patron saint to act as your heavenly sponsor (if you will) in this deeper transition into the faith. In choosing a patron saint for your confirmation, appreciate that you will be given that saint’s name forever in this sacrament (even if you never use it officially), so you should do some real research into the saint’s life, and be able to explain why you have chosen that name.
- You should be becoming more comfortable saying the Creed and the responses in the mass, in particular the Gloria.
- Fill out the following questionnaire, and bring it in with you when you come.

Eighth Questionnaire

Please answer the following questions, and return this information to us.

1. Are you still attending weekly Sunday Mass at the parish?
2. Is your date scheduled at the parish for your baptism and/or confirmation, have you chosen your sponsor, and has that sponsor gotten their paperwork into the parish?
3. Have you chosen a patron saint for your confirmation, whose name you will take, and if so, who is that saint?
4. Why have you chosen this patron saint?
5. Can you tell me some things about this patron saint's life? Please write a few paragraphs on his or her life on the back of this page.
6. Are you really ready to be baptized and/or confirmed?