SAINT MARK'S PARISH
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND

Confirmation Candidate Patron Saint Selection

PATRON SAINT: A SAINT WHO IS CONSIDERED TO BE A DEFENDER OF A GROUP, NATION, OR INDIVIDUAL.

We all need help sometimes. When we do, we ask our family or friends to solve a problem or give advice. Sometimes we just need to talk. We might even ask strangers for help, like when we have a dead car battery and no jumper cables, or when we are lost and need directions.

As a Catholic, you know that those who have died in a good relationship with God merit His gift of eternal life with Him. And as a member of the Catholic family you are related to fellow believers on earth *and in heaven*. So while many of the saints in heaven may be strangers, you can count on them to help. After all, they are closer to God than we are. Their prayers and intercessions for us can help make our lives easier—all we have to do is ask.

While the Church does not know ALL the saints in heaven (only God knows that), we can be sure about some people who have publicly lived holy lives, and who have had proven miraculous events associated with them. We'll cover in class how the Church determines if a person is a saint, but for now, you get to choose a patron saint to help you in life—especially in your faith journey. Over the 2,000 years of the Church, there's plenty to choose from. Some saints are patrons of a sport, or a topic in school, or a country, or a day of the year.

When you are Confirmed, you will take the name of your chosen saint as a "Confirmation Name." This will be recorded in the Catholic Church's official records, and the saint you choose will take a special interest in you—yes, YOU! You can ask in prayer for your saint's assistance, and trust that they will then pray for you to God.

Where to begin? Your Confirmation Coordinator will have some good books you can look through. You can also go to a Catholic book store and see what they have for books (plus you can see statues of some popular saints.) Or you can go to Catholic web sites about saints. The sites have saints listed by dates (so find if there is a saint for your birthday, or a loved one's), or by activities they are known for (like art or sports or carpentry). A list of some good sites are:

http://www.catholic.org/saints/

http://www.catholic-pages.com/dir/saints.asp

http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/byname.asp

You must select and hand in your write up on your patron saint as instructed in class. Your write-up must include an essay *in your own words* with the following information:

- ✞ **Who the saint is, where they were from, and some of the things they are known for.**
- ✞ **When did the Church first recognize this person as a saint?**
- ✞ **Why you selected this saint: What about her or him made you think they could help you best?**
- ✞ **The essay must finish with a prayer you've written to the saint.**
- ✞ **Remember, this essay must be in your own words. You should be able to define any special terms in your essay, and explain why certain facts are so important.**

SAINT ROBERT BELLARMINE, PATRON SAINT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS, PRAY FOR US!