

Candidate Name  
St. Mary of Vernon Parish  
Saint Report

Joan of Arc  
Patron Saint of Members of the Military

Feast Day-May 30

I have chosen Saint Joan of Arc as my Confirmation name because I believe she is a wonderful role model for young women. My grandmother's name is Joan and since she is my sponsor, I thought it was a good name for me to choose. My dad is in the Navy and she is the patron saint for the members of the military.

Joan of Arc was born on January 6, 1412 in Domremy, France. She was just an ordinary girl. She could not read nor write. She had to help with the household chores, take care of all the animals in the fields, helped bring in the harvest and she was very good with a sewing needle.

She heard voices when she was 13 years old that called her to save France from the English during the 100 Years War. She also had visions and she believed they were of St. Michael, St. Margaret, and St. Catherine of Alexandria. France was at war with England, and they were losing the war. The English occupied much of France. She was given troops to command. She wore armor and carried a white banner that represented God blessing the French royal emblem. She stood up to all the people who doubted her, and she was very successful in leading her troops to victory.

She was captured by some soldiers and was sold to the English allies. She was charged with heresy and sorcery. After 14 months she was condemned to death. She was burned at the stake. She asked an English soldier to hold up a cross-made out of two-pieces of wood so she could focus on it as she was being put to death. She could be heard repeating the name of Jesus by some people in the crowd. The only thing that remained untouched by the fire was her heart. Her ashes were thrown into the River Seine instead of being buried. The English feared people would come to worship her at her grave and treat her as a saint.

The reason I think Joan of Arc is a good patron saint for me is that I want to join the Navy after I finish college. I want to become a nurse and work on a hospital ship taking care of the sick and injured sailors and soldiers. I think they are all very brave. I honor their commitment to serve our country. I miss my dad very much when he is away on duty, but he always tells us we need to be brave for him so that he can be brave when he does his job.

I also think she is good because even though she could not read or write, she did not let that get in her way of doing what God called her to do. At times, I have a hard time with my schoolwork, and I sometimes think that maybe it will stop me from becoming a nurse. But Joan of Arc did really great things even though she could not read. She stood tall and did not let the unkind words of others get in her way. She believed in herself and she used all the gifts the God gave her, and she did really great things. My grandma always calls me "her little cookie" because she says I always give even the bad things in life a good taste. I think it is important to make sick people feel better and not just by using medicine but by being nice, spending time with them and letting them know I care.