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Confirmation 3A

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St. Joan of Arc: A Model of Courage and Faith

Joan of Arc was born in Domrémy, France, in 1412. She grew up in a devout Catholic family and claimed to have received visions from St. Michael, St. Catherine, and St. Margaret, instructing her to support Charles VII in reclaiming France from English rule. At just 17 years old, she led the French army to victory in Orléans, helping Charles VII be crowned king. However, she was later captured by the English, falsely accused of heresy, and burned at the stake in 1431. In 1920, she was canonized as a saint and is now the patron of soldiers and France. Her legacy as a courageous and faithful servant of God continues to inspire many today.

I chose St. Joan of Arc as my Confirmation Saint because of her unwavering faith and courage. Her story inspires me because she trusted in God's call, even when others doubted her. I relate to her struggle of standing firm in faith, especially when faced with challenges. There have been times when I've felt like I was standing alone in my beliefs, like when I had to defend my faith in a school discussion, or when making the right choice meant going against what was popular. Her patronage of soldiers also resonates with me, as I admire her strength in defending her country and beliefs. Joan's accomplishments show me that faith can empower me to overcome difficulties, and I hope to live with the same conviction she had. Additionally, her deep love for God and willingness to sacrifice everything for her faith is a reminder to always put God first in my life, just as I try to do when making difficult choices.

Another reason I admire St. Joan of Arc is her complete surrender to God's will. She remained steadfast in her beliefs despite facing great persecution. Her example teaches me the importance of trusting in God's plan, even when it is difficult. I want to imitate her virtues of bravery, trust, and obedience. I remember feeling overwhelmed when I had to speak in front of my whole class for a presentation, but I prayed and trusted that God would help me through it. By following her example, I hope to strengthen my faith and stand up for what is right, even when it is not easy. Her dedication to prayer and unwavering belief in God's presence in her life encourage me to deepen my spiritual journey and be more committed to my faith.

To follow St. Joan of Arc's example, I plan to deepen my prayer life and trust God more in difficult situations. I will strive to live with integrity and stand up for my faith, even when it is challenging. Additionally, I will look for opportunities to serve others with courage and humility, just as Joan did. Whether it's helping a classmate who is struggling or standing up for someone being treated unfairly, I want to take small, brave actions every day. Through these actions, I hope to grow in holiness and become a true witness to Christ. By practicing selflessness, seeking justice, and trusting in God's plan, I will work toward becoming a stronger and more faithful person, just as Joan was in her time.