

# St. Paul the Apostle<sup>1</sup>

by Kenneth John Paul Pomeisl<sup>2</sup>

St. Paul was born in the town of Tarsus in Cilicia which we today call Turkey around the year 3 A.D. His original name was actually Saul. He was a Pharisee which were a group of very devout Jews who were very serious about “the Law”. After Pentecost the Church, known then as “the Way”, slowly began to grow. As it did many of the Jews did not like this. They thought these newcomers were heretics. Saul was involved with putting these people in prison. He was at the execution of the first martyr, St. Stephen, who died by stoning. As he died St. Stephen asked God to forgive those who were killing him. Saul would continue to arrest every follower of the Way he could find. Some people believe that because of what St. Stephen did and how these people acted Saul started to have doubts about what he was doing but he would not change his mind. Then one day Saul was struck by a great light and blinded. As he was down here heard a voice asking “Saul, Saul, Why do you persecute me?” Saul asked this voice who he was and the reply was “I am Jesus, who you are persecuting”. After this Saul has his sight restored and becomes a Christian himself. After a while he is sent on missions to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles (non-Jews). St. Paul endures many hardships but creates many Churches and during this time writes many of his letters which we know today as Epistles in the New Testament. Eventually St. Paul is beheaded in Rome around 65 A.D. He is one of the greatest Saints in the Church. <sup>3</sup>



One of the reasons I admire St. Paul is that while he may not have had a good start once he met Jesus he made a good comeback. He never got too proud because he remembered how things were before. <sup>4</sup>

The year 2008 is dedicated by Pope Benedict XVI to St. Paul. St. Paul actually has four feast days not too mention many Churches named after him, including St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome. <sup>5</sup>

25 January (celebration of his conversion)

6 February (Saint Paul Shipwrecked)

29 June (celebration of Saints Peter and Paul co-founders of the Church)

18 November (feast of the dedication of the Basilicas of Peter and Paul)

I picked Paul as my confirmation name because my youngest brother is named John-Paul and I always thought that was a good name. My name is Kenneth John (after JFK) so I figured I could be Kenneth John Paul. <sup>6</sup>

**Requirements:** One side of a page, neat if handwritten, make sure you include the following:

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<sup>1</sup> Confirmation Saints name

<sup>2</sup> Your full Baptismal name with Confirmation name underlined

<sup>3</sup> Brief life history with picture

<sup>4</sup> Why in your opinion is this person a a Saint?

<sup>5</sup> List Feast day(s)

<sup>6</sup> Why did you pick this name?