The Importance of Names

From the Pastoral Manual (canon 855)

- Parents, sponsors and the pastor are to see that a name foreign to a Christian mentality is not given.
- A saint's name is not a requirement.
- A baptism name that is offensive to Christians is not permitted; Offensive names include Lucifer, Beelzebub, Hitler, etc.
- Names from the Hebrew Scriptures are perfectly acceptable.

Your name gives you an identity; it tells others who you are. When you were born, your parents chose your name. If you do not know your parents' reason for choosing your name, ask them about it. **Write and tell us why they picked your name.** At your Baptism you were called by name, christened to become a child of God. Your first name is your "Christian name" and indicates your membership in the Christian community.

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