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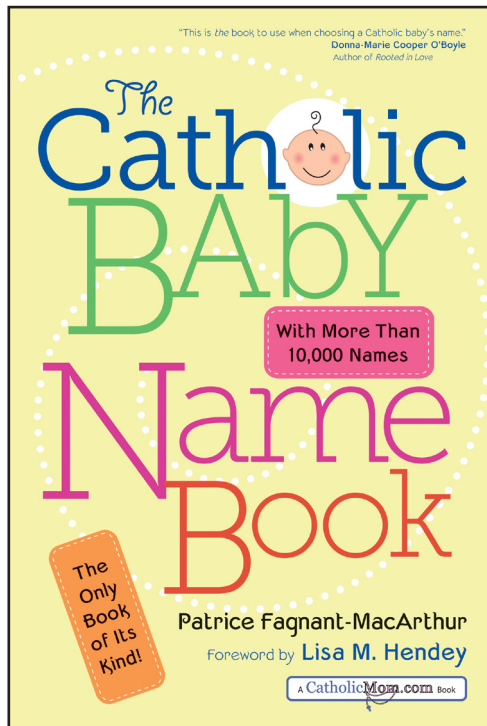
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A Ministry of the United States Province of Holy Cross

Ave Maria Press Releases First-Ever Book of Catholic Baby Names



The Catholic Baby Name Book By Patrice Fagnant-MacArthur

ISBN: 978-1-59471-303-3

544 pages • \$15.95

Family and Parenting/Reference

Available Now

In *The Catholic Baby Name Book*, the newest addition to the CatholicMom.com book series, Patrice Fagnant-MacArthur provides a resource—the first of its kind—to help expectant parents choose a Catholic name for their child and for new parents selecting a baptismal name.

In a time when many parents name their children after celebrities or other public figures, Fagnant-MacArthur encourages them to choose names that invoke holiness. All children named after saints have someone to pray for them in heaven, Fagnant-MacArthur notes, citing the *Catechism*: “The patron saint provides a model of charity; we are assured of his intercession.”

Fagnant-MacArthur provides parents with more than ten thousand choices, taken from the names of saints or biblical figures. She includes variations in spelling to allow couples searching for something distinctive “to put a unique twist on a traditional name.” The entries also include the meaning of the name, a list of saints or biblical figures who share the name, and a short biography. Here is an example entry:

Ethan - Old Testament; Top 100 Name; Hebrew; strong, the gift of the island
Aitan, Eathan, Eathen, Eathin, Eathon, Eathyn, Eathen, Efan, Efen, Effan, Effen, Effin, Effen, Effyn

Ethan in the Bible was a cymbal player in King David’s court. He is the author of Psalm 89.

Readers will also discover that there are ten ways to spell Regina, that the perennially popular name Jayden means “thankful” and “God has heard,” and that Sophia—the most popular girl’s name in 2012—was a saint who had three daughters named Faith, Hope, and Charity (who were also saints!).

Fagnant-MacArthur provides suggestions for further research, both in books and online. And she encourages parents to choose a name for their child that will reflect God’s calling for all people, again citing the *Catechism*: “God calls each one by name. Everyone’s name is sacred. The name is the icon of the person. It demands respect as a sign of the dignity of the one who bears it. The name one receives is a name for eternity.”



Patrice Fagnant-MacArthur is a lifelong Roman Catholic, homeschooling mom, and freelance writer on topics of women’s spirituality. She is a senior editor at *Catholic Lane* and the author of *Letters to Mary from a Young Mother*. She holds a bachelor of arts in history and fine art and a master of arts in applied theology. MacArthur lives in western Massachusetts with her husband and two children.