



# Getting to know Fr. John Klockeman



**Tell a little about your childhood/family/origin (e.g. siblings, parents, family, church, what were some experiences growing up?):**

I am the fifth born of six children. I have three older sisters and two brothers. My parents are both deceased, as well as one sister and one brother. I grew up in West Saint Paul, worshipped at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, and graduated from Henry Sibley High School. I have wonderful memories of growing up with a block full of big families, creating

games, spending hours and hours playing and bike riding outside during summer. They were carefree days of creativity and friendship. They were days in which no one seemed to lock their doors, windows open at night for cool air, and the dependability of mom and dad providing love, discipline, and presence. Since my sisters were older than the boys, they often, to their dismay, were a second mother to us. Today, my siblings, relish these times.

## **Favorite pastime?**

Listening to music, cooking/dinners out, exercise, and time spent with others assisting them to grow in holiness, wholeness and excellence as a person in their relationships, their marriages, and their relationship with God.

## **Do you enjoy sports? (watching, playing, etc....)**

I enjoy running, working out (mostly cardiovascular), and watching college sports once the playoffs are on TV. College sports, I find, are much more exciting and authentic than many of the professional sports.

## **Do you enjoy being out-and-about or are you more of a homebody?**

I do enjoy social events, dinners, and being outside. That being said, I do enjoy reading, continuous learning, and conversational learning.

## **Favorite TV show(s)**

HGTV Fixer Upper. I so enjoy the Gaines family honoring each other and their healthy interaction between the mom and dad with their children. In addition to that, I do find intriguing any of the CSI series.

## **Favorite Movie(s)**

Lord of the Rings, Bourne Trilogy, The 10 Commandments, Jesus of Nazareth, and the Sound of Music (I was in the play in high school).

### **Favorite music (secular and sacred)**

In general, popular music that is upbeat, Christian praise and worship music, and polyphony choral music. I am not interested in novelty, but classic music that stands the test of time and engages the human heart to be raised up to greater heights of excellence and faith.

### **Favorite food(s)**

Thai, Indian, Vietnamese, Spanish and Italian food. I love food that is flavorful and well-crafted. And, that doesn't mean it has to be high-end. Some of the best food I have had is homemade or from mom-and-pop shops.

### **What do you do to unwind? (movies, reading, etc.)**

Prayer from the heart to God, working out, a quick nap, reading, walks outside, deep and thoughtful conversations (I find them stimulating, informative and mutually educational), and quality time with friends.

### **Where is your favorite place in the world? In MN?**

I had the privilege to travel to Tanzania and engage in a day hike up Mount Kilimanjaro. That being said, I love the scenic beauty of Austria. It is an incredible nation of natural beauty and architecture. In Minnesota, I would say that my favorite place is by any body of water whether in the cities or in the country.

### **Where is a place you would love to travel?**

I have a few: on safari in South Africa, plus Argentina to ride horses in the Pampas region. I would enjoy the quaint villages in Wales, going to Australia, and seeing the winter palace in Saint Petersburg. As an extreme side note (no pun intended), I would love to go to Antarctica. Stateside, I would enjoy hiking the many Utah national parks, and to see the sequoias in California.

### **Tell us about your Faith Journey and calling to Priesthood**

My mother said she knew I would be a priest since I was three years old, but I didn't awaken to that reality until well into my twenties. Profound influences in my life were young adults alive with joy in their faith, re-catechesis of my faith through Life Teen and the Newman Center at Arizona State University, and the deep influence of Father Doug Lorig, who became, only after my own father, a father-figure/mentor to me. He is perhaps the holiest priest I have personally known. He guided me to a deepened, intimate relationship with God, freedom in Christ, and how to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. It was during Mass, at the elevation of the Holy Eucharist by the priest, that an invitation to the call of the priesthood was spoken internally to me. That invitation grew and was confirmed through other unsolicited and deeply profound, personal spiritual experiences of the Holy Trinity in my life. I cannot conclude without acknowledging the benefit of the frequent reception of the sacraments, daily prayer, and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in my life. Holiness is a daily decision, privilege, and one of continued growth.

### **What are some of your pet peeves (e.g. loud chewing, showing up late, etc....)**

Others not listening to a voicemail message I just spent some time to leave (I remind myself of this too, in case I do the same), gum chewing at Mass, and our current culture's appearance of not truly listening to each other – some people like to monologue rather than dialogue.

**What makes you laugh? (e.g. heady conversation, puns)**

People who are relaxed with one another and can laugh at themselves. Plus, witty puns making connections or twists in the conversation as it unfolds. That being said, I am not a fan of vulgar language. Christians should use our mouths to praise not profane.

**Favorite joke?**

It is more of a maxim from my mother, who would say: "That is very witty: half, dim, or nit witty. Take your pick!" She also said to all of her children, "Don't break your arm patting yourself on the back."

**What dreams do you have for your Ministry at St. Gerard's?**

That we all become maturing, alive, deeply catechized and well-formed missionary disciples of Christ leading others to Him and the beauties of our Catholic Faith. To be a parish alive, holy, and grace-filled as we live out our place in the unfolding of salvation history in our own day and age by being rooted in Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church so demonstrated by the great saints.

**What are your favorite ways to pray?**

Lectio Divina and, the ancient Christians prayer, called Prayer from the Heart. I am desirous to teach the good parishioners of Saint Gerard's how to deepen their relational prayer to God, to discern His voice from their own, and how to discern the movements of the heart as we mature in our mutual discipleship in Christ.

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