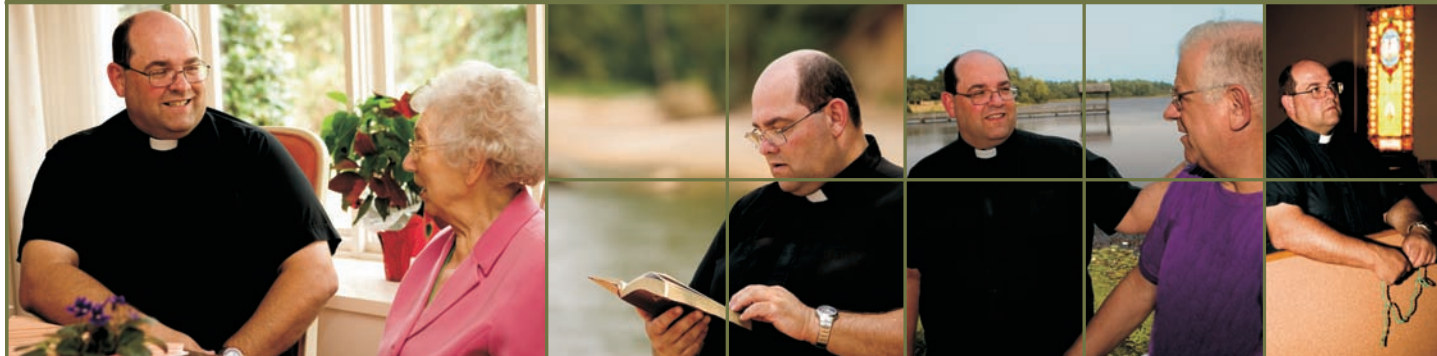


# “THE KNIGHTS HELPED ME TO DISCERN THAT GOD WAS CALLING ME.”



I have felt the call to the priesthood since I was nine years old at St. Stanislaus grade school. The call was simple: I knew that the priesthood would be a very good life for me. My parents were supportive. My mother would even tell friends and family, “John is going to be a priest.” But when the time came to choose a career, I chose engineering because I had not yet understood why God was calling me to the priesthood. Nevertheless, in my twenty years as an engineer, when a career decision was needed, thoughts of the priesthood persisted.

One Sunday at Mass the priest challenged us: If God had been good to us, how were we serving God with the gifts He gave us? I responded by joining the Knights of Columbus. It was a way of serving God in gratitude for all His gifts.

I soon became active in the various Council projects, and through the encouragement of the Knights, my prayer life was

strengthened, especially praying the Rosary. The Knights helped me to discern that God was calling me to use the gifts He gave me to serve others as a priest. This service to God’s people continues to be a source of fulfillment and joy.

Appropriately, it is the prayer life that the Knights encouraged that led me to contemplate the story of the rich young man in the Gospel of Matthew. Until then, I couldn’t understand how he could walk away sad after Jesus had called him. Then I realized that is precisely what I had been doing. Once I saw myself in that parable, I was able to give up engineering and respond to God’s call to the priesthood.

**Rev. John Starczewski**

Parochial Vicar  
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church  
Greensboro, NC



KEEP THE FAITH ALIVE  
[www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)



Please, do all you can to encourage priestly and religious vocations.  
Your prayers and support make a difference.