

What is Shepherd of the Field:

This ministry of prayer and praise is a way of recognizing, supporting, and encouraging the “good shepherds” in our Diocese. This ministry includes active priests, retired priests, deacons, and seminarians. While we know that priests receive a special grace of the Holy Spirit at ordination so that they may serve as Christs’ representatives for us, we also know that prayers, support, and encouragement by the people a priest serves are of great significance to them.

Each year the Diocesan Spirituality Commission Coordinator assigns Shepherds to each parish that have an active CCW (some take two) along with the NUDCCW Board members. Remember, if you do not see your Shepherd in the Deanery list, we typically assign them to a different Deanery. This allows a different parish to pray for your Shepherd, as you should already be praying for your Shepherd. Below are some ideas that you can do for your Shepherd. But please remember, these are just some ideas. I bet you can come up with some great ones of your own!

Ideas:

Write to your Shepherd and introduce yourself. Put their information in your bulletin.

Remember your Shepherd with prayers and correspondence on special days such as birthdays, holy days, holidays, Ordination Anniversary. Ordinary time is also a great idea, maybe have different women from your council sending notes.

Pray for your Shepherd daily and at your meetings.

Say a rosary for them.

Have a Mass said in their honor, perhaps on their birthday or the Anniversary of their Ordination.

Send them correspondence, reminding them that you are praying for them. (If you need ideas check out the NUDCCW website for some. Under Commissions and Committees drop down to Spirituality Commission and you will see suggestions for notes to Shepherd of the Field.)

Send them a spiritual bouquet.

Remember them in time spent in Adoration.

Speak kindly and with a positive attitude about our Shepherds, and never neglect an opportunity to affirm and Shepherd.

Teach your children and grandchildren about our wonderful Shepherds.

And remember, you may get a reply to your cards, but please don’t expect one. Priests are very busy, but they do appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing and praying for them.