

# Shepherd Reflections

You are invited to participate in a countrywide project that will help feed our *Shepherds*. The Master Chef is inviting you and I to join Him in the kitchen. We will be whipping up a big pot of yummy soup to feed the souls of Priests! There's an apron available for men, women and children of all ages. All you need is to bring a special ingredient.

Hello, my name is Christina Ramirez, and my husband, son, and I are parishioners at Holy Apostles Catholic Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I have been assigned a project from God to gather a collection of reflections on how God has touched the lives of people through the heart of a Priest. These writings will be compiled into a published book that will give homage to the hands that feed us our daily grains, and proceeds will be contributed to the Priests Retirement Fund.

“Priests are the umbilical cord between God and man” (unknown author). So, where did you frolic with a full belly? When you were hungry, did he pick a fruit from the vine for you? Did he help you grow from a woolly follower to the leader of a flock? When you went astray, did the Sacrament of Reconciliation bring you back to the green grassy pastures? Did he guide you on the path of forgiveness, healing, self-acceptance or self-love? Do you remember the hands that baptized you, confirmed you (in the absence of a Bishop), married you or anointed your head with oil while you were sick? Did he visit you in the barn behind steel gates? Did he say any special words or prayers that comforted you during a loss of a member from your herd? Any special blessings before roaming off to a foreign land? Were you challenged to climb new hills? Did he give you hope and encouragement as you relocated to a different valley or plain? Was he a spiritual father? Did you experience a significant presence of Jesus Christ through one of them? Let's get to cooking! And maybe the aroma will lure single men to the pot, and they'll want to serve as they have been served.

Some of you may offer the hearty meat or fresh vegetables, while others may bring the broth or seasonings. All in all, the ingredients will be stirred with Love. In the same way, there wouldn't be Priests without the people, and there wouldn't be people without the Priests.

Is there a Priest you would like to publicly recognize, thank or honor? Are you a Priest and would like to extend words of gratitude to a fellow Shepherd? If so, please email me at [shepherdreflections@gmail.com](mailto:shepherdreflections@gmail.com) with your experience. You may include your first name, first name of the Priest, Parish, and city/state in which you reside or you may remain anonymous. You may also mail your written, taped, or video experiences to the following address: Christina Ramirez; PO Box 25355 Colorado Springs, CO 80936

Cheerfully,  
Christina Ramirez