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*The County Roscommon
Society of New York, Inc. is
a 501(c)(3) society; your
contribution is deductible
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law.*

Monsignor Kevin Flanagan was born in Kilglass, Roscommon, one of seven children. He received his early education in the local National Schools. He then attended Summerhill College, Sligo and was ordained to the priesthood at St Patrick's College, Carlow in 1959. Since coming to the United States in the same year, he served at St Joseph's Mendham, Our Lady of the Valle, Wayne, St Paul's Clifton and St Peter's, Parsippany. He became Pastor of St Clare's Clifton for thirteen years, St Peter's in Parsippany for nine years, and completed his Pastorate at St Lawrence, Chester having served there for fifteen years. Since that time, Msgr. Flanagan has served at St Philip Clifton, and is now attached to Christ the King Church New Vernon.

Msgr. Flanagan was a teacher at two Diocesan High Schools, Bayley Ellard in Madison (now the Diocesan Evangelization Center) and De Paul in Wayne. He was Pre-Cana Director for the Diocese, a member of the Diocesan Priests Personnel Board and the first Senate of Priests, Dean of Eastern Morris County, Diocesan School Board and Director of the Diocesan Secretariate for Parish Life and a trustee of St Mary's Hospital Passaic.

In 1980, Msgr. Flanagan supervised the construction of St Clare Church in Clifton and eight years later the new St Peter's Church in Parsippany. He then initiated the building of a new Parish Complex at St Lawrence Chester which was completed in 1998.

Being an immigrant himself, he was always interested in the needs of emigrants, especially with the influx of Irish in the late 1970s and 80s, and then began the Spanish Apostolate at St Peter's with a Sunday evening mass. When assigned to St Lawrence, he did likewise.

Always active in Irish affairs in the metropolitan area, Msgr. Flanagan has served as Chaplain to the AOH and various Irish American Association's, among them the Irish American Unity Conference, Clifton and Nutley Irish, Independent Irish Society, The Irish Americans of the Oranges, the Irish Americans of Northwest Jersey and the Friendly Sons of St Patrick. He has served as Chaplain to the Roscommon Football Club of New York, and now serves as Chaplain to the Roscommon Society here in New York.

Always interested in promoting peace and justice for Ireland, Msgr. Flanagan was an outspoken advocate for peace there during the turbulent years celebrating mass for many years at the Garden State Festival, St Patrick's New York and on the street before the United Nations. He initiated the celebration of Mass in Irish at Seton Hall University. Since that time, Mass has been celebrated in Irish in many areas of New Jersey and New York.

Msgr. Flanagan was named Honorary Grand Marshal for the Bergen County St Patrick's Parade and has been honored by the Roscommon Football Club of New York, the Irish American Unity Conference, the Irish Americans of Northwest Jersey, The Fenian Society, St Brendan's Football Club, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and was recognized in promoting holidays for children from Northern Ireland in turbulent times of the 1970s and 1980s. He thanks everyone for their support this evening.

