Fr. Thomas A. Flynn, pastor of St. Clarence Parish in North Olmsted, is the eldest of four sons born to Thomas Flynn, from County Sligo, and Annie Feeney Flynn, from County Leitrim. As a member of many Irish American organizations over the years, he is well known for his love, admiration and appreciation of his Irish heritage.

Following his ordination to the priesthood May 28, 1960. Fr. Tom's assignments as associate pastor were, respectively, St. Mel Parish, Cleveland; St. Rita, Solon; St. Richard, North Olmsted, and St. Mark, Cleveland. In 1978 he became founding pastor of St. Clarence, where he established many spiritual, social and outreach programs. The cornerstone of St. Clarence is said to be “Caed Mile Failte” (100,000 Welcomes) to all who come to worship as well as to those who utilize its many facilities for various fundraising benefits and other charitable purposes.

This past March 16 marked the 37th and final year of Fr. Tom’s annual “Emerald Ball.” This ball has been termed “the premier event of the Greater Cleveland Irish community and beyond.”

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