



*Monsignor James Cox*  
*May 15, 1925 – April 15, 2017*

It is with deep sorrow that I inform you that at approximately 3am this morning, Reverend Monsignor James Cox, passed, our New York State Associate Chaplain.

Monsignor James Cox was born in the Bronx on May 15 1925. He is the third of seven children, four sisters and two brothers. His grammar school education took place under the very dedicated direction of the Presentation Sisters of Newburgh, New York. He attended Cathedral High School and College in Manhattan followed by six years of study at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, New York. Monsignor was ordained in St. Patrick's Cathedral May 19, 1951 by Francis Cardinal Spellman. His first assignment was to St. Catharine's Parish, Blauvelt, New York and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Tappan New York. From 1953 to 1954 he was an associate priest at Annunciation Parish, Crestwood, New York. In 1954 he was appointed as the first full time chaplain at Rockland State Hospital and served there until August 1986. In 1954 with the permission of Cardinal Spellman and the assistance of many people both at and outside the Hospital, he started the fund for the construction of the Chapel of our Lady Queen of Peace. The Chapel was dedicated by Cardinal Spellman in 1958. He was named a Monsignor in 1962. From 1972 to 1986 he served as Roman Catholic Vicar of Rockland County.

Monsignor was appointed as Pastor to St. Mary's Parish in Washingtonville, New York in 1986 and served the parish until 1997. During this time, the people of the parish built a parish center, a rectory and a pre-school. From 1997 until 2000 he served as an associate at St. Joseph's Parish, Croton Falls, New York.

During Monsignor's years in Rockland Country, he was active in the community. He was a member of the County Mental Health Board, served for 10 years as chairman of the Rockland County Human Rights Commission for a number of years was a member of the Rockland County Board of Governors, President of the Board of Directors of the Rockland Haitian Association, Member of the Board of Directors of the New York Foundling Hospital- St.

Agatha's home and a member of the Property and planning committee of Good Samaritan Hospital.

On May 13 1957, Monsignor Cox joined the Knights of Columbus, Council #2052 in Pearl River, New York. This year is his 60 anniversary as a Knight.

For more than forty years, Monsignor has been the Chaplain for the Columbiettes for the Triune Council of the Knights of Columbus and has been State Chaplain for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas form 1994-1998 and from 2000- present time.

In 2002 the Rockland Employees Federal Credit Union which was started at the Chapel with assets of \$45 celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary having made loans exceeding one billion dollars in that time period. On December 10, 2003 Rockland County Government created the Civil Rights Hall of Fame and Monsignor was one of the first seven inductees. In the same year the Nyack Branch of the NAACP honored him with its Life-Time Achievement in Interfaith Advancement Award.

Monsignor has received honorary doctorates from Dominican College, Blauvelt, NY and St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill, NY.

Monsignor received the Bishop Cunningham award by Central New York Chapter in recognition for his service to God, Church and mankind

Monsignor Cox was semi-retired but you would not know it for he filled in for many Priest throughout the state

We have been blessed to have known such a great man, Reverend Monsignor James Cox, in this time of The Holy Tridium we can rest assure that Monsignor Cox will be joining our FATHER in Heaven

God Bless you and your families

Written by: K of C New York State Deputy Robert Weitzman



April 19, 2017