

A Day of Prayer

*You will visit the sites where
Father Flanagan worked and
prayed. As you walk the ground
he walked, you will experience his
living presence in the continuation
of what he began with the
establishment of his first Boys'
Home in 1917.*

*Your pilgrimage companion, a
member of the Father Flanagan
League, will be with your group
throughout the day.*

Father Flanagan League Mission

*To educate and inform all people
of the heroic virtue and sanctity of
Father Flanagan's life and
his mission as mentor and
protector of youth.*

*Father Flanagan prayer and
devotional groups pray monthly
at his Boys Town burial site and at
other locations around the world.*

Father Flanagan League Society of Devotion

14057 Flanagan Blvd.
Boys Town, NE 68010

Email: pilgrimage@fatherflanagan.org

To schedule a pilgrimage, contact
Sharon Nelsen at 402.498.3056

Father Flanagan League Advisory Council

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www.fatherflanagan.org

Father Flanagan Pilgrimage



*"Our young people are our greatest
wealth. Give them a chance and
they will give a good account of
themselves." -Father Flanagan*

*Father Flanagan League
Society of Devotion*

A DAY OF PRAYER AT
FATHER FLANAGAN SITES
BOYS TOWN, NE

Pilgrimage Day

- 9:30 Flanagan House:** Orientation, pilgrimage prayer in Chapel; self-guided tour; prayer for Alumni at Flanagan Statue outside; group photo.
- 10:15 Chambers Chapel:** Readings from writings of Father Flanagan; prayer for staff
- 10:45 Hall of History:** Film (nine-minutes); \$1.00 donation; self-guided tour
- 11:00 Dowd Chapel:** Rosary and other prayers
- 11:40 Dowd Chapel:** Mass*
- 12:10 Father Flanagan's Shrine:** Concluding prayer
- 12:30 Visitors Center:** Lunch,** Gift Shop, return to any site for extended tour.***

Note: The above schedule is typical for a morning pilgrimage. A pilgrimage may begin with Mass and/or lunch followed by prayers at the various other sites. The focus of the pilgrimage is praying for all aspects of Father Flanagan's mission and learning about the signs of his holiness.

* Mass is at 11:40, Monday through Saturday.

** Lunch at the Visitors Center is served from 11:00 to 1:00, Monday through Friday.

*** Boys Town self-guided or guided tours are available through the Visitors' Center.

We invite you to help spread the mission of the Father Flanagan League by taking additional materials to share with your family and friends.

Edward J. Flanagan was born July 13, 1886 on a farm in Leabeg, County Roscommon, Ireland, two miles southeast of Ballymoe, County Galway. He was the eighth of John and Nora Flanagan's eleven children. In 1904 he began a long struggle to become a priest. Despite overt discrimination against the Irish, poor health and low expectations from his professors, he stayed faithful to his dream. After arriving in America in 1909, he returned to Europe where he was ordained with the Jesuits at the Royal Imperial Leopold Francis University, Innsbruck, Austria, on July 26, 1912.

Upon his return to Omaha, he was assigned to St. Patrick's Parish in O'Neill, Nebraska and then to St. Patrick's Church in Omaha where he began his work with homeless men. He opened the Workingmen's Hotel in the winter of 1915, housing about 75 men per night. When assigned to St. Philomena's parish, he moved the hotel to Livesay Flats where he could house over 300 men each night.

Many of the men he helped would tell him, "Alas, it is too late for me, Father. If only someone had helped me when I was a boy." Eventually, Father Flanagan went to Bishop Harty with a plan to help the boys who were abandoned to the streets or to the courts. The Bishop granted permission with the understanding that diocesan funds were already committed to St. Joseph's Orphanage and so Father Flanagan would have to provide for the boys by his own efforts.

On December 12, 1917, the young priest officially founded Father Flanagan's Boys' Home which moved to different sites until Overlook Farm was purchased on May 18, 1921. By 1925, the Home had provided care to 1,790 boys from 29 states and 25 nationalities; 1,100 were Protestant, 626 Catholic and 57 Jewish. In his lifetime, Father Flanagan cared for over 19,000 boys in the Home and influenced the care of vulnerable youth throughout the world.

His international ministry included visits to Japan to establish care for children orphaned by World War II, and a fact-finding mission for President Truman in war-torn Europe. While in Berlin, Father Flanagan died of a massive heart attack on May 15, 1948. He is buried on the Omaha Boys Town campus in Dowd Chapel.

On October 7, 2001, the Boys Town National Alumni Association gifted the residents of Ballymoe, Ireland with a statue of Father Flanagan.

A year later in October of 2002, the BTNAA dedicated a duplicate statue at Father Flanagan's former Boys Town residence. With Irish officials joining Boys Town representatives, the official twinning of Ballymoe, Ireland and Boys Town, Nebraska was completed.
