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Parenthood is a privilege. That privilege carries with it certain definite responsibilities. The home is a natural and divinely-appointed unit of society. It is the duty of fathers and mothers in the home to train their children by precept and example for good citizenship and service to God.—*Father Flanagan*



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**Father Edward J. Flanagan**  
**Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska**

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***Father Flanagan League:***  
*Society of Devotion*

*Prayer Leaflet*

*Year One, January*

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*From Fr. Flanagan's Prayer for Peace:*

O Infinite God of Mercy and Love for Men, we beg you for pity and compassion on the world that has wandered away from your Holy Gospel of Peace and Love. You have created man with a soul like unto Thee, precious in your sight, a soul that is immortal and eternal. The purpose of Your Creation is love...love for You Our God, and love for our fellow man because of You—for in loving man for Your sake we recognize in him this precious soul.

...Bring about, Dear Lord, a spiritual union of all the nations of the world built on the understanding that we are all Your children and You are our Heavenly and Eternal Father. Teach us all the great dignity of our state in life as children of You, brothers of Your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, nurtured and strengthened by Your Holy Spirit...

With humble and contrite hearts...we beg of You, Our Lord and Master, to put an end to all ruthless slaughter, and with the dawn of Peace may a new hope come to the world, a hope based on faith in You, our God, faith and hope that will bring forth a burning fire of love upon the earth that will illuminate the path of man's weary pilgrimage on earth toward his Heavenly throne.

All this we ask, and beg of You, in Jesus Christ Our Lord.  
**Amen!**

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*Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord:  
The Lord God shines upon us.*

Psalm 117.26-27

What is wrong with our boys and girls? This is a question many parents are asking, not because they want to be critical, but because they are bewildered and in need of help. These youngsters of theirs, they say, are different from the young people they knew when they were teen-agers. They have different interests, older ideas. What these fathers and mothers seem to forget is that the world in which their children live is a different world from that in which they spent their childhood.

When I was a boy, my mother used a flatiron instead of an electric iron. The only dish washer she had was a pair of busy hands...We never knew anything about indirect lighting. We used a kerosene lamp which invariably had a wick that smoked. Water for the bath had to be pumped from the well outdoors and then carried into the house to be heated in the reservoir in the kitchen stove. The radio had not been discovered. The movies were unheard of...the automobile had not made its appearance...We need to keep these things in mind when we try to understand the modern teenager. Our growing boys and girls today are just as fine and just as wholesome as those of fifty years ago. They may dress differently. They may have different interests. They may be more sophisticated. But there is no essential difference, there is only a different behavior pattern conditioned by a new environment.

Why, then, is there such a furor about juvenile crime? The answer, at least in part, is that a lot of well-meaning people do not understand the modern boy and girl...Again, a good many people are sincerely alarmed because they lack perspective; they are so preoccupied with the mistakes of the few that they fail to make considerations for the ninety and nine who never get into difficulty...

But there is another reason, a reason I like to think is the real reason why people are concerned about our unfortunate youths, and this is that spirit of love and devotion which permits no one to remain complacent as long as a single boy or girl is in need of help or sympathetic understanding. Jesus put childhood on its highest plane when He said that of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Children are not born to be bad. They come unspoiled from the hand of God. It is our duty, as parents and members of society, to protect them from bad influences in the world where they grow to young womanhood and young manhood. We must not allow environmental influences to remove the look of Hope which God has put in their eyes, nor the spark of enthusiasm which He has put in their hearts.

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*Father Flanagan's Prayer for Parents:*

O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, look down with gracious eye on the fathers and mothers of this world. Teach us, Dear Lord, to know and understand the high position which we as parents hold in Your divine plan of creation – the guardianship of Your Precious Little ones.

Give us, Dear Lord, the strength and patience to teach by example and precept our precious children and lead them along the paths of virtues, onward and upward towards You, their loving and All Gracious God.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen!

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## FR. FLANAGAN PRAYER

**G**od of mercy, love and compassion, we are grateful that You gave Father Edward Joseph Flanagan special graces to love, protect and guide neglected, vulnerable and oppressed youth. Thank you that the work he began with the foundation of Boys Town, has continued to spread throughout the world. We pray that You inspire many to adopt his caring, loving ways as mentor and protector of youth.

Loving Father, we bring our own needs to you now, asking that through the intercession of Father Flanagan, in accordance with your Holy Will, you grant us these special favors: \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank You for Your Faithfulness and Providence, and for hearing these petitions which we ask in the Name of Your Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**