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-Father Flanagan



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Father Edward J. Flanagan
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

Father Flanagan League:
Society of Devotion

Prayer Leaflet

Year One, March

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!

*Come! Behold the deeds of the Lord,
the astounding things he has wrought on earth.*

Psalm 46.9

**FROM FR. FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS
ABOUT HIS TRIP TO IRELAND**

From National Catholic News Service, July 23, 1946

“The boys of Ireland are blessed above all other boys, first of all because the nation has the Faith,” the Rt. Rev. Msgr. E.J. Flanagan, director of Boys Town, said upon his return from a visit to Ireland, where he had been to study juvenile problems, deliver a series of lectures on Boys Town, and to visit relatives.

“It would seem to me,” he said, “that the boys of Ireland, if given proper direction in their schools and church organizations and on the athletic fields, should grow up to be the type of men that will make Ireland a great nation—standard bearers of citizenry for the whole world to see. There are millions in America who never go to church nor ever say a prayer...they have not the gift of faith.

“The people of Ireland have placed their trust in Almighty God. That is why the people of Ireland are a happy people. They cannot help being happy, though they might suffer from perhaps lack of money and the ordinary comforts of life, and sometimes even the necessities of life. But these are passing things, as wealth in itself, has never brought happiness. “There is one thing I noticed more than anything else, and that was the seeming lack of interest in material things, and the feeling of contentment and peace that rests in the minds and hearts of the people there.”

Great work is being done in Ireland...but from what I saw during my visit...the institutions in that country are not all noble, particularly the Borstals, a type of reform school, which are a disgrace. The prisons are also a disgrace...the children who go to those places of punishment are sick children, mentally and spiritually. They cannot be rehabilitated by people like the guards in those institutions who not only believe in, but practice, severe physical punishment on the unhappy inmates.

However, let us not delude ourselves. Physical punishment...the rod and the fist are used in some of the American institutions also. In Ireland they admit that it is done. We must fight these things, and we can fight them only by prayer and by sincerity on the part of the

citizenry to protect our youth against punishment, by seeing that our sick youth are rehabilitated at home and not sent away to state institutions...Ireland faces a great future because the greatness of her people lies in their humility and spirituality.

from Father Flanagan's independent writing about his trip to Ireland:

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The weakness in this kind of thinking is that it minimizes the importance of the individual. It does not draw any line between the offense, which should be hated, and the offender, who should be loved as a precious child of God...

Desire for revenge expressed in cruel and thoughtless physical punishment is blind to the demands of Christian charity and justice...

FATHER FLANAGAN PRAYER

God 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.**