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Character is formed by doing the thing we  
are supposed to do, when it should be done,  
whether we feel like doing it or not.

*Father Flanagan*



**FOR INFORMATION OR TO REPORT FAVORS  
GRANTED  
CONTACT:**

Father Flanagan League  
14057 Flanagan Blvd.  
Boys Town, NE 68010

**[www.fatherflanagan.org](http://www.fatherflanagan.org)**

DONATIONS

**We are a federally recognized  
501c3 nonprofit charitable organization  
For religious purposes.  
Donations may be made out  
to FFLSD and sent  
to the address above.**

Photos, prayers, writings of Father Flanagan  
Used with permission of Boys Town Hall of History  
**Father Steven E. Boes, Executive Director**



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

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

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*Prayer Leaflet*

*Year Two — April*

*From Father Flanagan's prayer at Central High School Youth Rally, April 30, 1940.*

...Teach our young people, Dear Lord, the basic and essential truth on which their lives are to be built for You. Teach them to respect the authority vested by You in their parents and superiors who are in truth Your Divinely constituted representatives over them. Teach them to love, respect and obey their parents and superiors, and, thus guided by them by example as well as precept, these young people may develop a great spirit of reverence towards You, their God and Creator, and recognize their duties and obligations as expressed in Your Divine Commandments.

Dear Lord, sin and sorrow and suffering have come into the world and into the ranks of youth because of improper teaching and neglect of children...Help the young to understand better their duties and obligations that with this knowledge, they may go forth as missionaries for You to spread the Gospel of love and worship throughout the land. Give them the strength to become spiritual giants that they may accomplish grand and noble things by setting a fine example in their own personal lives as true children of You, their God and Creator.

O Holy Spirit, inspire the young that they may be capable of analyzing the causes which sometimes upset youth and reach conclusions that will bring peace and happiness. All this I ask in

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*O Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry  
come to you...Incline your ear to me;  
in the day when I call, answer me speedily. Psalm 102*

## From Fr. Flanagan's writings

*Address delivered by Fr. Flanagan at the opening of the Paul Revere Boys club,  
Jersey City, NJ, Thursday, November 2, 1939, 8:30 P.M.*

...There isn't any part of life which does not have its rules, and we can't cheat on a single one of them without losing and being unhappy. You can look around you in your own neighborhoods, your own schools, and perhaps, to a degree, in your own club.

You will see that people are pretty well divided into two general classes. There are those who know the rules and play the game fairly, and there are those who break them and don't play fairly at all. For the fair players there is a reasonably happy and comfortable life. For the rule breakers there is nothing but trouble.

Here, in our own grand and glorious country, we do not have so many rules that obeying them is a difficult task. We are not obliged to belong to a certain club, and buy a particular uniform. We can do it, of course, if we choose, but we are not forced to do it. We are not obliged to subscribe to certain papers, or to believe certain things. We have the widest possible choice. Our laws, our rules and regulations, are all designed to bring the greatest possible good to the largest possible number. And we, who enjoy so much of good, can certainly do no less than obey the laws, and certainly we ought to do much more.

...Nothing in life is achieved without effort. There are no short cuts to success in any field. It is work, and honest work alone that brings results. Of course, life is not all work, and it is quite important to play. It is quite important for every man and every boy to do his share of both. The better a boy does both, the better chance he will have of achieving both happiness and success.

There are those who will tell you that everything has been done, and that a young man's chances in the world of today are very small. I beg of you, do not believe them....All the forward steps the world has ever taken have had their beginnings with your men, and they were all boys once, even as you are boys now...It was to offer opportunity to boys who would otherwise be denied it, that I

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opened my Home so many years ago, and today Boys Town stands as a living champion of the rights of American boyhood, and a shining example of the fundamental rightness of the American way...

Sane, normal, level-headed citizens will always be needed in America. To give them to our country, Boys Town was founded.

...There is no such thing as a bad boy. No boy consciously and sincerely wants to be bad. He will take the right way, the honest way, the socially acceptable way, if the opportunity to do so is afforded him.

...To the staff members...the futures of these boys are in your hands, and their futures are, in no little measure, the future of the land we love. America is still worth the saving, but it can be no more secure, than the measure of security in the lives of the youngsters who are her destiny...

## FATHER 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.**