

The accumulation of the wealth of the country into the hands of the few has congested the machinery of trade, commerce and even of living.

—*Father Flanagan*



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DONATIONS

**We are a federally recognized
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Father Edward J. Flanagan
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

Father Flanagan League:
Society of Devotion

Prayer Leaflet

Year One—January

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 God's Holy Name. Amen!

*May all the earth give you
Worship and praise,
and break into song to your name.
O God, Most High.*

Psalm 65

FROM FR. FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

"Father Flanagan's Page," Father Flanagan's Boys Home Journal, January, 1934

...My boys and I are beginning the 17th year of our Home. We have faith in the future. For in the past 16 years we have weathered some pretty rough storms. But even when the way was hardest God brought help to us through some friend.

We believe that the future is going to be better. None of us is expecting any return of the days of four and five years ago. This time we will be satisfied with each family making a living and saving part of their earnings. No more fortunes over night. For with each fortune that was made hundreds of men were thrown out of work and out of their homes eventually.

The accumulation of the wealth of the country into the hands of the few has congested the machinery of trade, commerce and even of living. We hope that this great agricultural area will realize a fair price for its products. We believe that here in the Middle West lie great possibilities yet to be realized. This section of the country is new. Its cultural, educational and social growth is only begun...

"Father Flanagan Says," Boys Town Times, January 8, 1943

It is a tradition for all of us at the beginning of each new year, to make New Year's resolutions...

It is my hope that you boys in making your resolutions, cut them to a minimum. In this way you can set your goal and strive throughout the year to fulfill the resolutions which you set up to guide yourselves.

The New Year offers us in many ways an opportunity to take an inventory of ourselves. Businessmen do this and find it practical. For each of us, I know that it will be helpful if we at the beginning of each year take an inventory of ourselves, set up a program for the ensuing year and then strive to accomplish it.

To you boys—citizens of Boys Town—let me urge that each of you take an inventory of yourself. Ask yourself these questions:

Am I doing my best in my school work?
Am I getting the most out of my education?
Am I being a good citizen?
Am I taking proper advantage of my leisure time?
Am I living a clean Christian life?
Am I developing my body stronger from a physical, mental and religious standpoint?
Am I preparing myself properly to serve my country, if need be?

Ask yourself these questions. Ponder over your answers.

I know that every boy and every girl, too, wants to achieve success. You boys here have a wonderful opportunity, by all means take advantage of it. When you set a goal for yourself, resolve to achieve it...

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.**