
Youth needs the force of good and attractive examples. Children are not philosophers, but they are apt imitators. They may be easily led to follow where they cannot be driven.

—*Father Flanagan*



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GRANTED
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DONATIONS

**We are a federally recognized
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For religious purposes.
Donations may be made out
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to the address above.**

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Father Edward J. Flanagan
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

Father Flanagan League:
Society of Devotion

Prayer Leaflet

Year Two — July

Father Flanagan's prayer, Nebraska Press Association Dinner, March 11, 1946, Paxton Hotel:

O Heavenly Father, we acknowledge with grateful hearts Your numerous graces and blessings bestowed upon us, as individuals and as a nation that is especially favored by You.

We are quite conscious, Dear Lord, of our unworthiness and inability to accomplish any good of ourselves, and hence recognize that all good comes through You, Our Lord and Master.

Dear Lord, we have many problems that bewilder and upset us—of ourselves we are unable to solve these problems, but through humble and contrite hearts, we look up to You for the light to see and understand, and the grace that will enable us to meet these problems and solve them in a manner pleasing and acceptable to Your Divine Mind.

We ask You in particular to bless these good men and women, editors and publishers, assembled here to mutually assist one another by their discussion and deliberation. Bless their deliberations, Dear Lord, that these good people may be benefited and return to their respective homes and businesses better men and better women—that they in turn may render greater service to God and to their fellowman.

Bless us, O Lord, and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bounty through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

*Some rely on chariots, others on horses,
But we rely on the name of the Lord our God.*

Psalm 20.8

From Fr. Flanagan's writings

Boys Town Times, October 28, 1938, "Father Flanagan Says"

The remark, "When you save a boy, you save a multiplication table," came from the lips of John Wanamaker, the merchandising genius whose foresight and business acumen built a nationally famous institution...

Mr. Wanamaker saw youth...not only as separate entities whose training would determine the course of their lives and thus influence the future of this country, but he saw them also as future fathers, and thus as the providers of this civilization's continuity.

In today's boyhood we have our future leaders, and in shaping their lives and characters, we are determining our own destinies. We shall, in a few short years, lay down our burdens, and how well we have done our tasks will be in the province of today's youth to estimate and appraise. They will either approve or disapprove of the courses we, as their leaders, have followed, and as the chief actors in the drama of civilization, it will then be in their power to do something about it.

The world has spent centuries in developing a culture. We believe that the march of progress has been consistently forward, even though at times it may have appeared to be blind and groping. It has weathered well, stood the test of time, and we hope for its continuance. Only a careful and ceaselessly vigilant eye to the training of our youth will insure it.

As the fathers of the future, it will be in the realm of our present day boyhood, to either continue or to scrap the philosophy on which we have built our civilization and society. Many of us will be living to see the continuity or the wreckage. We are deciding which it shall be now, in the training and guidance, or the lack of it, we give our boys.

I have urged repeatedly, on the platform, in the press, and in my private correspondence, the philosophy that delinquency is,

in its broader aspect, not a matter for correction, but one for prevention. The problem is not to be solved by the erection and maintenance of institutions, however complete their services may be. While the present system endures, with parents evading their responsibilities, and society spending millions for so-called reclamation and little for prevention, we shall continue to have juvenile delinquents in numbers which astound the world.

The saddest part of all is, not that these boys do wrong in the present, but that the habits so ingrained will be conducive to anti-social actions in the future, when, as fathers and leaders they will set the pace and furnish the examples for the boys of their own day. To have good fathers then, we need good fathers now. Where these are lacking, society must see to its own future by remedying the deficiency.

The mission of Boys Town is to give the proper training and guidance to potential fathers, who might otherwise have to do without 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.**