
Keep our youth busy; keep them occupied. Let us all work together and not let our youth down. They need guidance, supervision and religious training.

Father Flanagan



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GRANTED
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DONATIONS

**We are a federally recognized
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Donations may be made out
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Father Edward J. Flanagan
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

Father Flanagan League:
Society of Devotion

Prayer Leaflet

Year Two March

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!**

*When the just cry out, the Lord hears them,
and from all their distress he rescues them.*

Psalm 34

"Time is Most Precious possession" Father Flanagan's Boys Home Journal, January, 1927, p. 3

When God created man...He raised him above all other creatures...and placed upon man certain duties and obligations and reminded him that he was not placed upon this earth to become part of it, but for God and eternity; and in order to make him worthy of that eternity which God destined for man he has been given time in which to do things that will best prepare him for that eternity. Time, therefore, is given to us merely to prepare us for eternity.

How many of us really think about time in these terms? I fear a great many rather look upon it as that something within which certain things can be done that have a material usefulness, or within which they could crowd a great deal of pleasure.... Everything on this earth is false, pleasure turns into pain, honors and glory fade like smoke, riches perish, and in the end all is gone except the good man accomplishes registered in the Book of Life written by the finger of God which will never be erased.

Yes, it is necessary for man to work, earn money, and we are permitted to acquire wealth which is not gotten unjustly, but these activities should be looked at in the light of means or aids towards the principal purpose of life, namely to prepare ourselves for an eternity of happiness with God in Heaven. Time, therefore, which has been given us by an all gracious God should be utilized and husbanded by spending it in the service of Him who gave it, and to whom we belong.

If there is such a thing as selfishness in the world it is because men have grown accustomed to look upon time as their own in which to work out their selfish ends without a thought of God or their fellow man...

My dear Friends, let the thought of the goodness and love of God impress our hearts and minds this coming year. Let us thank Him from the bottom of our hearts for having given us time

in which to do something, not utilize the noble talent which God has given us for ignoble purpose which will end with time.

We are not created for time but for eternity. Our every act each day, therefore, should be used for the greater honor and glory of God, and out of love for God to assist our fellow man in need.

What a happy, unselfish world this would be if men would try to live the life which God created them for, and follow the great moral rule which He gave us in the Ten Commandment!

The homeless lads join with me in hoping and praying that 1927 will be one of great spiritual growth and happiness for all our Friends, and ask you, in return not to forget these less fortunate little ones, that through your help they will be enabled to grow up mindful of their duties as children of God and worthy citizens of our beloved country.

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.**