
As I look back over that life now that was full of beauty and loveliness, and as I contemplate those scenes that no artist with either brush or pen could paint, I can see the environment in which my character was being developed...

—Father Flanagan



**FOR INFORMATION OR TO REPORT FAVORS
GRANTED
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Boys Town, NE 68010

www.fatherflanagan.org

DONATIONS

**We are a federally recognized
501 c3 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
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Father Steven E. Boes, Executive Director



Father Edward J. Flanagan
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

Father Flanagan League:
Society of Devotion

Prayer Leaflet

Year Three—November

From Father Flanagan's prayer

Continue to bless, Dear Lord, this Home, that Boys Town may continue to carry on its sacred mission of bringing hope and love to the neglected and unloved little ones of the nation. Elevate the spirit that made Boys Town possible during the past years.

Strengthen that spirit that during this most trying year, we may be able with your grace to overcome the hardships and discouragements that always accompany this work.

Make us more worthy and more responsive to Your grace, that the work we do here in Your name and under the special patronage of Your Immaculate Mother, may be more and more acceptable to You—the God of Heaven and Earth—and pleasing to Your Immaculate Mother—Our Patroness and Protectress. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

*When the just cry out, the Lord hears them
And from all their distress he rescues them.
The Lord is close to the brokenhearted,
And those who are crushed in spirit He saves.*

- Psalm 34

From Fr. Flanagan's writings

The following is a quotation from a letter written by Father Flanagan to Reverend Michael O'Flanagan, Dublin County, Ireland, April 26, 1942:

You also may not know that I was the little shepherd boy who took care of the cattle and the sheep. That seemed to be my job as I was the delicate member of the family and good for nothing else, and with probably a poorer brain than most of the other members of the family. I was sent away to school to study for the Priesthood, as I stated above, I wasn't much good for anything else; so my job as a shepherd boy fitted in very nicely in preparation for my life's work afterward. Three times a day would I travel over those immense lands of Leabeg. You have no idea what it was like with dangerous bogs on the north and south as I would travel through those vast fields, mostly without shoes, and I was a happy Irish lad, saying my rosary as I went along, and other times, as I grew a little older, reading one of Dickens' novels.

As I look back over that life now that was full of beauty and loveliness, and as I contemplate those scenes that no artist with either brush or pen could paint, I can see the environment in which my character was being developed and how grateful to God I should be when I compare that wholesome environment with the records of thousands of boys here, something like 4500 of them who have gone through Boys Town during the last twenty-five years. Of course, if I had the background of some of these boys, I would want to be a Dillinger or a Capone, or some of the outstanding criminals who have been making possibly a fifteen billion dollar crime bill in this country each year.

On May 31, 1907, a Professor at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, wrote this comment about "Flanagan, Edward (1906-7 one year phil.)"

"A nice decent Irish boy, kindly and friendly, obedient regular—talent only fair and not very good formation, works well...very satisfactory, nice family, nice little gentleman but delicate in health, nervous about his condition...just fair in talent, visits too much, too many questions to ask of confreres."

(From a newspaper interview with Mary Dowd, 1939)

"Before I gave the chapel," she said, "I visited Boys Town several times. Each time, I was more and more impressed with the well-mannered, physically, spiritually, and mentally able young men who were there. I believe in doing something only for a really worthwhile organization. And that is exactly what I think Boys Town is."

Miss Dowd expressed her great admiration for Father Flanagan, founder of Boys Town..

"In my opinion," said Miss Dowd, "Father Flanagan is America's outstanding humanitarian. His kindly manner and his great love for homeless boys is simply marvelous. I hope and pray God will spare him for many years to come in order that he may continue the great work he is doing for the homeless boys of America."

"As to my impressions of your city," she stated, "I believe the thing that strikes me most is the friendliness that radiates all over town. You all know each other. Even your air is pure and free."

"Wherever I travel," she said, "and that is far and often, you may be assured that I'll always return to Omaha."

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.