
It is the distinctive mark of Christmas that the degree of happiness and joy that we feel is determined largely by the amount of joy and happiness we bring to the hearts of others. This is the spirit of Christmas. On this day our hearts are especially open to the needs and comforts of the poor, the sick and the homeless.

- Fr. Flanagan,



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

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

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
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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 Four—December

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 ...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.

*Like a shepherd he feeds his flock:
And gathers the lambs in his arms,
Carrying them carefully close to his heart
Leading them home.*

Isaiah 40

From Fr. Flanagan's writings

"Father Flanagan Says" — Boys Town Times, December 13, 1946

This, then, is the spirit of Christmas—that we love one another because God first loved us, that we love our neighbor because of our love for God.

Christmas is a time of joy. But many hearts will be sad this Yuletide because of the sin and suffering brought into the world because the spirit of Christmas has not always been the guiding force in the lives of men.

Millions of displaced...are homeless...Many of our fellowmen are starving for want of bread to eat and freezing for want of clothes to keep them warm.

This is what the Christmas spirit should mean to us this Christmas time. We all should do something to exemplify in our own lives this spirit of brotherly love for those who are in need.

Long before psychologists told us the way to cure a bad habit is to replace it with a good habit, Christ taught that men should overcome evil by doing good. If we want peace and the blessings of peace for ourselves and our neighbors, then we must look to the Prince of peace. If we want to live in a good world then we must help make it that kind of a world by our acts and prayers. If we want good will to reign among men, then we must see first that we are men of good will.

How the heart starves for the happiness that comes with sacrifice for others through love of God! And what feast it enjoys at Christmas time when the cares and worries over the material things of life are lost in the wholehearted exuberance which marks the Christmas spirit of charity and love for all...

Thus, by our lives, we shall give fuller meaning and greater purpose to life, not only for ourselves but for those who mourn, for those who are in want, for the sick and for all men, women and children everywhere.

Famous quotes of Father Flanagan

The youth who makes a mistake may be compared to a plant growing in depleted soil and deprived of health-giving sunshine. He hasn't got a chance.

Our young people are our greatest wealth. Give them a chance and they will give a good account of themselves.

When parents fail to do their job, when they allow their children to run the streets and keep bad company, when they fail to provide them with good examples in the home, then the parents and not the children are delinquents.

The war is over, but there is still no peace because there is everywhere too much hatred and envy, and too little love.

Christian charity does not consist in the shedding of tears, or in mere preaching, but rather in the doing of that which we preach, and in the actual alleviation of the conditions that bring about those tears.

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.**