

What is surprising to me is the revengeful attitude of society against people who grievously transgress the law. They think always in terms of revenge and punishment, rather than trying to help sick people back to a normal state of health. It is a very bad sign and perhaps it is the result of all the revengeful stories that our people are reading concerning war and killings.

*-Father Flanagan*



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**DONATIONS**

**We are a federally recognized  
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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—October*

*From Fr. Flanagan's Prayer, August 24, 1946:*

O God, Heavenly Father of the human race, in adoration and thanksgiving we lift our hearts to You, the Giver of every good and perfect gift...

You have made man like unto Yourself, with a soul that is precious in Your sight, a soul whose highest privilege is to love and serve You in this world and to be with You in the next. You have entrusted the soul of the child to parents whose duty it is to train, guide and protect the child from the pitfalls of youth...

We lift our hearts to You, O Lord, from Whom our help comes. We implore You to teach our young people the lessons of love. Teach them, we pray, to respect the authority vested by You in their parents and superiors who are Your divinely-constituted guardians over them. Give them the strength to become spiritual giants that, casting off the dead weights of sin and vanity, they may run the good race and attain the prize of Heaven.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

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*Blessed are you when people hate you,  
and when they exclude you, revile you,  
and defame you on account of the  
Son of Man. Rejoice in that day  
and leap for joy for surely  
your reward is great in heaven.*

**Luke 12.22-23**

*Father Flanagan wrote this letter to the Attorney who represented the two young sailors accused of a capital crime..*

Dear Mr. Gipson:

Your letter received, also check for \$75.00. I thank you most sincerely, however, I am returning the check to you, because I do not feel that you, in any way, are obligated to pay my expenses back and forth to Jackson. I willingly did this on my own.

I do want you to know how deeply I appreciate your fine good will in this regard, but I also want you to know that this little personal gesture on my part is very small in comparison to what the respective parents of the two boys, who were electrocuted, have to sacrifice and suffer. We are all children in Christ and we must make these little sacrifices if we are to remain Christians in any kind of spirit.

I am deeply grateful for the information you gave me regarding the details of the events up to the electrocution itself. It is very sad!

It was a pleasure to have met you, Mr. Gipson, and our other dear friend, the ex-sheriff. Incidentally, I have forgotten his name and would like to have it. He was such a nice gentleman.

I have just received the letter which Murice Shimniok wrote me. I am handling this letter now as I write to you. What a horrible feeling that only just a few short days ago when this letter was written—the writer was living. I just picked the letter up now with a view towards answering it, unconsciously. It is as if it has come from the dead. There is no one to write to!

Wishing you God's every blessing—and I know He will reward you for everything you have done in behalf of these poor boys, I remain

Sincerely,  
Rt. Rev. Msgr. E. J. Flanagan

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*This is a letter to Father Flanagan from one of the young sailors condemned to death.*

Dear Father Flanagan,

When you receive this, I will have been executed.

I want to thank you for your efforts in our behalf. We deeply appreciated what you have done and thank you again.

Altho I am to die in a few hours, there is no fear in my heart. My creed is not the same as yours, but I feel I am ready for my God's judgment.

In closing, I bid you a farewell.

Sincerely,  
Murice M. Shimniok

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## FATHER FLANAGAN PRAYER

**G**od 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 many may be inspired 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.**