

The boy must be won over at the very beginning. Otherwise he is liable to walk or run away from the Home as soon as an opportunity presents itself. We have no high fence around our Home, no bars on our windows, no locks on our doors, and we do not wish to have these. Unless we can influence the boy by moral persuasion, no physical restraint has results.

- Fr. Flanagan



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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 Five—August

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.

*Ride on for truth
Show justice to the poor
Wield your power boldly.
Your weapons are ready;
Nations fall beneath your might
Your enemies lose heart.
Your throne is as lasting as the everlasting God.
Integrity is the law of your land.
Because you love justice and hate evil.
God, your God, anoints you.*

From Fr. Flanagan's writings

From a speech made by Father Flanagan before the Omaha council of Social Agencies on November 8, 1927 at the Jewish Community Center, Omaha.

From 50 to 75 percent of our children are non-placeable for reasons already given. Some of these children are with me a year, some several years. These are considered our permanent family, and, when I say family, I want you to know that our every effort is directed towards binding them together by the ties of personal interest, love and sacrifice, which are reciprocated by their gratitude and obedience, and this happy condition makes it possible for 150 to 200, once neglected boys, to be happy, smile, dream of, and make plans for a hopeful future. This healthy and happy environment has transformed hundreds of problem children into splendid types of constructive citizens, and this, and this alone is our reward and recompense.

The institutional care of non-placeable children offers our children a splendid public school education up to and including the ninth grade. Our teachers are among the best, holding life grade certificates, and are called upon to use great patience in analyzing the case of each new child to ascertain where it is best for him to start, what his peculiarities are, and find a way to reach him in order to get a response. Here the backward child is given special attention, and helped by his teachers outside of regular school hours until he is able to take up regular work in the class room...

We have examples by the hundreds of talented, healthy, normal boys who had proven to be too difficult to be cared for by widowed mothers, helpless fathers, or indifferent relatives. These boys, because of lack of supervision at home, or no supervision at all, were becoming very much neglected. They wouldn't go to school half the time, and when they did, accomplished little or no results. Not having the proper kind of home, they, naturally, sought companionship on the streets and in the alleys with similarly neglected types of boys. In fact, their home ceased to be what it should be—a place to radiate love, interest, proper care, and an exacting discipline, which children should respond to by gratitude and strict obedience. Here we have to deal with the undisciplined type of child, and again the institution performs a great service. The work of reconstructing this type of neglected child by first helping him to unlearn many of the things he has learned, and endeavor to mould

his character with nobler thoughts and higher ideals, is one that calls for considerable tact of the experienced teacher, and a full measure of patience.

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Unless we can influence the boy by moral persuasion, no physical restraint results. The jail and reform school methods have their own specific type of discipline which those in authority consider necessary, but our Home must perform a different kind of service through moral persuasion to mould the character of our children.

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.**