
If we want to live in a good world, then we must help make it that kind of world by our acts and prayers. If we want good will to reign, then we must see first that we are people of good will.

-Father 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
Used with permission of Boys Town Hall of History
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-January

Father Flanagan's *Prayer for Parents*

O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, look down with gracious eye on us fathers and mothers of this world. Teach us, Dear Lord, to know and understand the high position which we as parents hold in Your divine plan of creation – the guardianship of Your Precious Little ones.

Give us, Dear Lord, the strength and patience to teach by example and precept our precious children and lead them along the paths of virtue, onward and upward towards You, their loving and All Gracious God.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen!

*The knowledge of the wise will increase like a flood,
and their counsel like a life-giving spring.*

*When an intelligent person hears a wise saying,
he praises it and adds to it:*

Sirach 21.13,15

From Fr. Flanagan's writings

In a letter written to Father Flanagan, M. B. Nelson of Kansas City, said:

"I know so little of why we are here, and why some of us seem to have a greater capacity in devoting our lives to the welfare and uplifting of humanity than others. As I grow older instead of my contacts and experience enlightening me, the mystery of life grows deeper."

Father Flanagan's response; letter dated January 28, 1946.

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Your letter received and I thank you for writing me again.

A paragraph in your letter strikes me as a strong appeal from one who has an extraordinary love for the good things of life, but who for some unknown reason has not been permitted to fully understand the source and reason of the best that life can give.

There is a certain gift given to every man by which he is permitted to fathom the "mystery of life" of which you speak. The gift of which I speak is the gift of prayer. When the Son of God lived among us to show us the correct path to human happiness, He taught us by word and example that prayer unfolds mysteries, heals wounds and supplies strength for every need.

Prayer is talking with God. God is the Author of all things, and as a wise and intelligent author He has a definite purpose for each of the products of His creative goodness. When an intelligent man makes something, he also has a purpose in doing so. When the thing is made he sets a value upon it and takes care of it accordingly. Another man who does not understand the nature or use of this thing can hardly be expected to show any regard for it until he is made familiar with all its possibilities. To him this thing remains a mystery until its author is permitted to explain his purpose.

In saying that prayer is talking with God, I merely suggest that a man of prayer prefers to open his mind and heart to his Creator to thank Him for his goodness and consideration in giving him the gift of life with all its opportunities. Having learned to do this in an habitual attitude, this man begins to understand that God is truly a kind and loving Father to him. He begins to appreciate his relationship to all the rest of God's creatures, and realizes the love and respect he owes them all by reason of the love that God Himself has toward them. He is careful never to misuse even the smallest goods he has received. He learns to be helpful and forgiving to his fellow man, and exerts every power that he has to bring about that perfection which God wishes all His creatures to achieve. He automatically begins to live for that for which he prays: "Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done."

These observations, I am sure, are not altogether new to you, Mr. Nelson, but I am certain that just a reminder of this fundamental necessity and its practice by you will go a long ways to help you understand the purpose of your life. In addition, I would suggest that you acquire a few good books on this subject for your library and go to them occasionally for that inspiration which the daily affairs of business do not give.

With every good wish and hoping some day to have the pleasure of meeting you personally—when we can perhaps discuss many things of interest, I remain,

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

"...some of the following books and articles, which you might read:"

IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?	William James, philosopher
THE FOOL	Channing Pollock, a play
SILAS MARNER	George Eliot, a novel
LINCOLN	Carl Sandburg, a biography
CHRISTIAN PERFECTION	St. Francis de Sales, a book
JOB	Holy Bible
THE HOUND OF HEAVEN	Francis Thompson, a poem
COMPENSATION	Ralph Waldo Emerson, an essay

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.**