
Religious training is a most vital factor in awakening in the child's mind a sense of duty and responsibility. The fact of his creation—God's greatest blessing to man, should arouse in him some sense of gratitude to God... - 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.**

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Father Edward J. Flanagan
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

Father Flanagan League
Society of Devotion

Prayer Leaflet

Year Five—October

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.

*Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is
honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence and
if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.
Keep on doing the things that you have learned
and received and heard and seen in me,
and the God of peace will be with 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.

In addition to the regular five hours a day school work we furnish to our older boys an elementary knowledge of many trades which are a great help to us in ascertaining what a boy likes, what he is adapted to, and give him every encouragement and cooperation towards that end. These are manual training, carpentry, cabinet work, printing, gardening, farming, horticulture, floriculture, dairying, stock raising, poultry, stenography, typewriting, general office work and music. Through these trades we are able to get a boy started in the line of work we think he is best fitted for, and although we have not the facilities to complete the training in many of the trades, still we can give him sufficient to enable us to place him in a shop or factory where he can earn a living wage and be independent while completing his course.

I believe one of the many causes for delinquency among boys is lack of understanding between parents, guardians, teachers, and their charges, and the failure on the part of those to right that misunderstanding creates a widening and deepening of that channel through which misunderstood youths rush onward, and downward to the malestorm of wasted lives, blasted hopes, and utter failures to society.

Our Home, although yet too young to see much result from those who have gone forth to take up their life's work, is well pleased with the progress our boys are making. They are on the producing end of our citizenship. They are working and earning an honest living...Many are playing in bands and orchestras throughout the country. Some are in the army, navy, and marine corps, and of these some are in the music department. Some are salesmen. Forty-five of our boys are in High School throughout the country working their own way through school, and three in College. Of over 2000 boys who have gone through my Home, not one to my knowledge is in jail or the penitentiary.

I attribute what small measure of success we have had in handling our problem cases to many factors: First, our Home is situated in the country on a hundred and sixty acre farm, away from the distractions of congested city life. The healthy country air,

plenty of good, wholesome food, most of which we raise on our farm, plenty of recreation, enable our boys to build up good, strong, healthy bodies, and this is the first essential....

Character building is our next important work, and first of all a child has to be taught his position in society, his dependence on others, whose duty it is to care for him, take an interest in him, make sacrifices for him, and he in turn by love and strict obedience to show his appreciation and gratitude. Religious training is a most vital factor in awakening in the child's mind a sense of duty and responsibility. The fact of his creation—God's greatest blessing to man, should arouse in him some sense of gratitude to God...

The normal home is the greatest blessing for healthy, normal children...the foster home which opens its heart to the orphan and homeless child is the greatest blessing for the dependent child...The institution which takes children in their neglected condition and prepares them for placement in foster homes as well as giving permanent care to is non-placeable children is rendering a service to helpless children which the God of Love alone can understand and in His own good time reward with dividends.

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.**