
To be the kind of person God intended one to be is the crowning achievement of right living. Get an education, get friends, get a worthwhile goal to strive for—but first get character, for character is the foundation upon which the superstructure of a successful life is built.

—Fr. Flanagan



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DONATIONS

**We are a federally recognized
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Donations may be made out
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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 Six—August

Father Flanagan's Prayer for Parents:

O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, look down with gracious eye on the 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 virtues, onward and upward towards You, their loving and All Gracious God.

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

Amen. I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me. See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.

(Matthew 18)

From Fr. Flanagan's writings

Note to the children of Hiroshima War Orphanage, May 10, 1945

Greetings and best wishes from the boys of Boys Town through me to tell you they are interested in your welfare, and will pray to Almighty God for your spiritual and physical welfare.

They know the future welfare of Japan depends upon you...
God Love you, Father Flanagan

A letter from Paul Marella, Apostolic Delegate to Japan, to Father Flanagan, June 20, 1947:

It is with real pleasure that I assume the duty of thanking you most cordially for all the good which has been accomplished for the Church in Japan as a result of your visit...

As Apostolic Delegate, I thank you in the name of hierarchy of Japan...in the name of the clergy, but principally perhaps, in the name of the religious men and women who are devoting their energies to the care of destitute children. All of these have been encouraged in their efforts by the appreciation you have shown and by the inspiration your presence with us has lent. The time was especially ripe for your visit and so its fruits will remain... Under the siege of communism and of the other materialistic philosophies, repeated insinuations are to be found in magazines and newspapers that religion is a chimera, totally unable to help Japanese society out of its morass; it is not supposed to be interested in the things of this world and seeks the backing of the strong instead of championing the weak.

Your coming here at this time has demonstrated the capital and irreplaceable role that religion and the Church must play even for the well-being of man in this life...the important gain you have registered here for us and for our cause is that you have reached the hearts of the people. You came here to win sympathy for the cause of youth and the Japanese people love youth, their own and other's too. You have seen it for yourself, I am sure, how their eye and their ear has responded to this your appeal. In basing your work and its success completely upon the basis of faith and charity, love for God and man, you have done religion and its general acceptance here a lasting service. Thank you again. May your fruits among us last, as I think they will. May many be moved to follow here, where you have led the way over there.

ABOUT FATHER FLANAGAN

The last time I saw him was the month before he went to Europe on a mission for the State Department in 1948. He had gone to the Far East in 1946, at the invitation of General Douglas MacArthur, to look into the youth problems of postwar Japan and Korea...Father Flanagan went to these war-torn countries and brought about a solution to these critical problems earning the praise and gratitude of General MacArthur and the admiration of the Japanese people. Inspired by his example, a young Japanese priest founded his own Boys Town in Kobe, and if you go to Japan today, in the railroad station at Osaka, you will see a giant mosaic of Father Flanagan. He had a profound effect upon the Japanese People, who looked upon him as a man of God and an angel of mercy.

What he did in Japan and Korea was considered almost miraculous...

He was always proud of his boys no matter what they did and he was especially proud of his boys who were priests.

- Fr. Clifford Stevens, from a homily given at Boys Town Chapel on Sunday, May 4, 1986

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.**