

From Father Fanagan's Boys Home Journal, December, 1932, page seven

...Only a happy boy is capable of development mentally, morally, and spiritually. By happiness I do not mean the kind that always is expressed in laughter. Oftentimes the greatest happiness is inexpressible. I want my boys to have a happy heart which is expressed in their work, and in their lives.

To each and every friend of my homeless boys I extend in the name of my boys my sincerest wish for a happy Christmas season. May God bring to each of you all the good things of life, which, I pray, includes that peace the world can never give. — *Fr. 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
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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 6—December

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 during this most trying year, 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.**

*I am a flower of Sharon
A lily of the valley...
Set me as a seal on your heart
As a seal on your arm.
Song of Songs 2.1, 8.6*

*Cove justice, you who judge the earth:
Think of the Cord in goodness.
And seek him in integrity of heart.
Wisdom 1.1*

From Fr. Flanagan's writings

From Father Flanagan's Boys Home Journal, 1921, page 8

Our first Thanksgiving at the Home was celebrated in a very special manner, as all of us have had great things for which to be thankful. Starting with practically nothing but a good will and an earnest desire to help boys, we have been able, through the goodness of God, to accomplish much toward assisting these boys during the past year, and through the most generous response of the good people of Omaha, have endeavored to tide over our financial difficulties.

To accomplish anything of real moral worth for a needy and erring boy is not so easy a feat, if depending on purely material means, and human agencies. Plenty of money and a fine and well equipped Home could do very little towards acquiring our object—of helping the boys. We have not had these, but have had greater things than these—the wonderful help which God so loves to give these whom He sees are trying to assist even the least of His little ones. Our work is dear to the Heart of our Divine Lord, and in our many needs we feel that we are more like unto the God-Man Himself who suffered the wants of so many necessities of life.

For the great spiritual help which we have received during the first year of the Home's existence we are most thankful, and it was indeed a pleasing sight to see and hear our boys pouring aloud their fervent prayers of thanksgiving to God for His kindness and goodness to them. We are thankful for the many evidences of spiritual improvement which we have had with our boys during the past year.

We are grateful and thankful to the kind ladies who from the very beginning of the Home have taken such intense interest in helping us, and I might say here, that had it not been for their co-operation, the Home could never had kept its doors wide open thus long to shelter these poor boys.

We are thankful to the general public of Omaha, who, so generously, have contributed towards the Home. I might add, that there is hardly another Home that has more to be thankful for, and our fervent prayers on that morning were offered up in gratitude to God for remembering us so generously in our poverty and humility, and prayed that He in turn would recompense our kind benefactors—a thousand fold.

PATRONESS OF BOYS TOWN

FEAST OF THE IMACULATE CONCEPTION, Feast Day of the Home
(from Father Flanagan's Home Journal, 1921)

The Home observed its great feast day most fittingly by Masses at 8 and 10 o'clock, the 10 o'clock Mass being a high Mass with special music by St. Rose's choir, under the leadership of Miss Elizabeth Kirttenbrink. An appropriate sermon was preached at both Masses by the Rev. Director of the Home.

At 7:30 p.m. the beautiful new statue of the Immaculate Virgin in our grotto, was blessed by Father Flanagan, after which he said the Rosary with the boys and the parishioners of St. Rose parish, followed by a sermon to the boys on the Immaculate Mother.

We deeply appreciate the powerful influence which the Immaculate Mother of God has in molding the characters of these poor boys, whom providence places under her benign protection. Our special aim in the work of moral reconstruction is to appeal to the cold and oft-neglected little heart of these poor boys and place before them a mind picture of the virginal Mother who is anxious to be their Mother. We endeavor to have them cultivate a special devotion to this spiritual Mother, and have a child-like confidence in her. Evening service ended with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

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.**