

...I believe that every boy should learn a trade. He should learn the sanctity of labor by actually working at it. There will always be a great demand for skilled labor, and many a man has been saved from the bread-line because he knew how to make his living with his hands. There is an unfortunate impression abroad among our youth. How they came by it, I do not know, but they seem to think that there is something unworthy about any but a white collar job. I believe that there is honor in any worthwhile and constructive work.

- 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
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 Six—July

Father Flanagan's Prayer - August 24, 1946:

O God, Heavenly Father of the human race, in adoration and thanksgiving we lift our hearts to You, the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

We thank You for these boys and girls. We ask Your blessing upon them, Dear Lord...

You have made man like unto Yourself, with a soul that is precious in Your sight, a soul whose highest privilege is to love and serve You in this world and to be with You in the next. You have entrusted the soul of the child to parents whose duty it is to train, guide and protect the child from the pitfalls of youth.

Dear Lord, sin, sorrow and suffering have come into the world, and into the ranks of youth, because You have been neglected and Your Commandments transgressed. Improper teaching and neglect have brought tragedy in our midst.

We lift our hearts to You, O Lord, from Whom our help comes. We implore You to teach our young people the lessons of love. Teach them, we pray, to respect the authority vested by You in their parents and superiors who are Your divinely-constituted guardians over them. Give them the strength to become spiritual giants that, casting off the dead weights of sin and vanity, they may run the good race and attain the prize of Heaven.

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

*You are my Son;
this day I have begotten you. (Psalm 2)*

From Fr. Flanagan's writings

A LETTER WRITTEN TO MRS. HARLEY J. EARL

July 15, 1939 (following his visit to her ranch in Sheridan, Wyoming) Part IV

...I believe that every boy should learn a trade. He should learn the sanctity of labor by actually working at it. There will always be a great demand for skilled labor, and many a man has been saved from the bread-line because he knew how to make his living with his hands. There is an unfortunate impression abroad among our youth. How they came by it, I do not know, but they seem to think that there is something unworthy about any but a white collar job. I believe that there is honor in any worthwhile and constructive work.

I have discussed this trade and school idea with our local unions on many occasions, but they have let me down miserably. I did not ask them for funds or for teachers. I asked their advice and cooperation, and tried to secure their assistance in placing my boys as apprentices in part time jobs to secure their needed practice and experience under the direction of master tradesmen. They did not give me that cooperation. I have been rebuffed by the very labor agencies who should be interested in seeing youth trained who could replenish the fast dwindling ranks of skilled labor which are the life blood of business and industry.

I am also interested in the development of an agricultural school, and here again, I have been compelled to lean toward the practical side. I have contacted the Agricultural School of the University of Nebraska, and they have sent me some men who were very highly recommended. Again I found myself dealing with theorists. They had large funds of theoretical knowledge, but were utterly lacking in practical experience. One of their most highly recommended men could not even hitch up a team of mules. Of course, he soon became the laughing stock of the practical men, and the farmer boys over whom he had been placed. However, I have not despaired of finding a man who has the rare combination of sound theoretical knowledge and practical experience, to do for our agricultural department what I hope to be able to do for our technical branches.

...If we had a well developed trade school, I feel certain that there would be room for our boys in industry and mechanical lines, just as surely as our character training fits them for society...I am most anxious to develop a good technical school, so that every boy who comes to Boys Town may be given the opportunity to perfect himself in a specialty, become proud of his ability, and leave us a self respecting citizen with confidence in his ability to earn an honorable living without being dependent on anyone or any agency.

...Even with the financial handicaps which I have had, I have been able, thank God, to develop in my boys a spirit of self respect, a love for work, and a desire to forge ahead through honest industry and not by scheming or racketeering. I am happy that my boys are doing so well. They are honorable and respected citizens, each doing his part to make this country a better one by the very fact of his honorable and respectable citizenship...Of course, I wish that I might have been able to do much more. There is so much to accomplish...

This concludes the letter written to Mrs. Harley J. Earl.

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.**