

We cannot hope for anything even approaching success in training and educating our children, if we neglect the God who made them. No child can grow into the best kind of citizenship while neglecting its responsibilities to God. All power is from God. We owe everything we have to Him. Unless we inculcate responsibility to Him in our children, we fail before we begin.

— 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.**

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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—November

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!

*His divine power has bestowed on us
everything that makes for life and devotion,
through the knowledge of him who called us by
his own glory and power. Through these,
he has bestowed on us the precious and very great
promises, so that through them you may come to share
in the divine nature, after escaping
from the corruption that is in the world
because of evil desire.*

2Peter 1.3-4

From Fr. Flanagan's writings

*Address to a Knights of Columbus Banquet, Penn-McKee Hotel, McKeesport, PA,
October 26, 1939*

Early training and habit formation is vital in the lives of children. It indicates the normal way, the healthy way, the sensible way, to bring up a child. There is a trinity of essential elements which we use at Boys Town, which should be incorporated into the life and training of every child: work, rest, and recreation. No single one of these can be safely slighted. None can be emphasized at the expense of the others.

...Hardly a day goes by which does not bring a letter to my desk from someone who wishes to do his part in the salvation of our boys and girls. They want to know the secret of Boys Town. They want to know how they can do their parts. They see the situation which confronts us, the troubles with which we are surrounded and all but engulfed. They recognize the need for action, and they want to know what they can do.

The Church to which you and I belong and Whom we affectionately know as Mother, has not been asleep. She has seen the rise of the forces of dissolution with watchful eye. The mountain upon which she stands is at once one of human experience and divine inspiration. She has seen civilizations grow and perish from the earth. She was old in social welfare before the term was coined. We, who know her glorious history, know that the key to the reconstruction of the social order is in her hands. Viewing the wreckage that so-called modern living was, and is still making of human lives, the late great Holy Father formulated his program of Catholic Action, and in it he outlined the procedures by which society is to be saved. Catholic Action means simply this—the participation of the laity in the apostolate...

Social and economic conditions have made youth programs a vital necessity...youth by the thousands is being attracted to these movements, and in every case the results have shown that they are eminently worthwhile...There is only one sad feature about all this noble work, and that is that it is not more widespread. We must blanket the country with these youth services...so that every boy and girl may be reached and influenced. The task is difficult, but not impossible. There is abundant work to be done, and I refuse to believe that it shall languish for the lack of willing Catholic workers...

ABOUT FATHER FLANAGAN

Father Flanagan knew more than any man alive about boys and yet confessed to be constantly puzzled by them...The phrase, "There's no such thing as a bad boy" expressed the conviction upon which Boys Town was built, and he used it as a whip in his battle with those who lacked compassion. He never advocated a weak-kneed philosophy in dealing with boys, as any Boys Town graduate will testify, but lack of compassion in adults made him white with anger. He became the defender of the weak, the helpless, and the poor.

But this was only part of him. He had a basic respect for youth. He seemed to have a conviction as few men have it that the boy of today is the man of tomorrow. It was not a slogan, it was an insight. He was not just working to solve a social problem or improve a social situation. He had an interest in the individual boy, and he found each one amazingly different. He realized that the destiny of the world rested in their hands.

With such a vision, he worked mightily and with real genius. He knelt in awe and reverence before this thing called boyhood, and he could not understand anyone who did not do the same.- Fr. Clifford Stevens, article in "The Liguorian" magazine, October, 1985

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.**