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— Fr. Flanagan



**FOR INFORMATION OR TO REPORT FAVORS
GRANTED
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Boys Town, NE 68010

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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.**

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 Seven—June

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.**

*With your counsel you guide me,
and at the end receive me with honor.
Whom else have I in the heavens?
None beside you delights me on earth.*

(Psalm 73.24-25)

FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

From his Boys' Home Journal, May, 1928

To help boys to help themselves has been the sole purpose of our Home since its inception ten and a half years ago. Our Home receives with a welcome, and without any questions asked, any homeless or neglected boy, regardless of his color, nationality, or creed. Many of these children come to us in a very sad and pitiful condition, and some, indeed, serious problems. Many disappointments and discouragements we have had with these children, and all hope of saving them to themselves and to society seemed almost gone. Still we have persevered in new attempts to solve their problems, until finally we arrived at one that gave hope and encouragement. The reason of these discouragements and sometimes utter failure, comes from the fact that it takes years of neglect to leave its impressions on the minds, hearts and souls of these children, and these impressions have become so deep-seated that remedies are not easily applied. It takes patience, prudence, and understanding of each individual case to bring about the desired result.

Thank God we have had considerable success in dealing with these different problems and hundreds of such boys who have been given up by parents and welfare agencies as failures and fit subjects for reform schools, have gone through our Home and are now out in the world making their own living and are honest, hard working, good citizens.

Last month one of our boys, Carl Blasko, whom we have not seen in two years, came back to visit our Home. He is a baker by trade, having learned this trade in our Home, and we then placed the boy for experience in a shop at Marshfield, Wisconsin...Carl is an orphan boy, made so by a terrible tragedy in his family, and he and two of his brothers were sent to me for a home..

...A trade school is a very necessary asset to our Home, and our regrets are that we are not better equipped to carry on this work. One of our principle difficulties is the lack of money to finance such a trade school. Good teachers cost so much money for salaries, and there is practically no way of meeting those expenses on a self-supporting basis. Perhaps some of our readers may know of some good elderly man, who for example may be a good cabinet maker, and be able to teach our boys this trade. We could not pay a big salary, but could furnish a good home to such a man, and a small salary. What we need in these departments are men who would take an interest in helping the poor lads to learn a good trade to equip them to earn their own living when they go out into the world.

ABOUT FATHER FLANAGAN

From "Tribute to Father Flanagan" by Dr. Thomas R. Niven, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Omaha, on KBON, May 20, 1948

...It is no small wonder that he was able to say, "There is no such thing as a bad boy." Because he fellowshipped with the Christ of God, Who saw the essential goodness of every lad, this man never would allow himself to think that any young fellow was essentially and eternally an incurable evil. As a result of this spirit, thousands of lads throughout the world today are thanking God for a man who knew the mind of Christ and represented his spirit in a great faith and in a great confidence in boys.

As a representative of the Protestant clergy, I know I speak the mind of all my brethren when I say, we have no greater example in the last fifty years of American life of a great Christian, statesman and gentleman and social worker than this priest of the Roman Catholic Church. With great pride we salute the memory, the life and the accomplishments of this man of God, and with the greatest respect we thank God for the record of one of the greatest souls whom it has been our privilege to know.

I have seen him in all sorts of situations and have come to know his mind and his spirit. He was a many-sided man of God, who had the broad, generous spirit toward all good men of all faiths, a man indeed who recognized the catholicity of goodness and genuineness...

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.**