

If we would but seek the truth and facts there would be no more of this unreasonable preconceived judgment. But truth comes to us tinged and colored with our prejudices and preconceptions which are as old as ourselves. It comes to us from behind a curtain which we leave closed, accepting only that which we wish to accept—that which please us. If we would only open the curtain and get the real truth, not distorted and disfigured by a gaudy display, we would live in harmony with the world and our fellow man. — *Fr. Flanagan*



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**DONATIONS**

**We are a federally recognized  
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For religious purposes.  
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 Seven—March*

*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.**

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*Your ways, O Lord, make known to me;  
teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
For you are God my savior.*

(Psalm 25)

## FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

From the darkest ages, through all the years of history, petty quarreling, feuds, wars filled with horror, bloodshed, tragedy and sorrow, have been used by peoples and nations to settle both racial and national problems. When finished, they return to their homes and from the spoils of war find how little was accomplished, and how much harm was effected.

We, as a nation, are perhaps better equipped with advantages far superior to all other peoples. Our schools and seats of learning are the finest in the world. Our children are not only offered this education at a nominal cost, they are forced to accept it for a certain period of years. With these wonderful advantages we should be leaders—leaders in thought—progressive in action, and above all else we should be sympathetic in all our social behaviors.

We pride ourselves in being thoroughly and completely broad-minded. But are we? Do we live in peace and harmony with those about us?—a social behavior so essential for the happiness of ourselves and our fellowman. In our daily lives we have occasion to learn and live with men and women of all religions—with men and women who are unbelievers and who have no religion—with men and women of different races. What does it matter whether I am a Jew, Protestant, Catholic or any other man? It is how I hold myself as a respectable member of that race or creed to which I belong, which begets respect or contempt by my fellow citizen who belongs on the other side.

When I speak of being broadminded in matters of race, I mean exactly this. I have respect for the people of that particular race for their institutions, for their heroes in peace and war who have made up their glorious history; that I glory in the fine ideals of their citizenship; their characteristics which stand out so gloriously for the exemplification of the members of their race, and spurs them on towards better citizenship.

We are the melting pot of the world. In every city and town no matter how large or small we find members of all races and creeds. They have come to this country, or are the children of those who came years ago, for the sole purpose of becoming good, respected citizens of our young republic. They are proud and happy that they can live under a flag which assures them civil and religious independence and freedom.

Then what of this monster, prejudice, that tears down this fine

fabric of citizenship which is woven through warp and woof of hard working, industrious good living respectable citizens? This monster that uproots and kills all that is fine and beautiful in our lives—that even enters into our very homes and tears a son or daughter from loving parents—that breeds hate, malice and enviousness—that will cause a person of one race or creed to designate another with the ugliest and vilest expletives—that works havoc, tears down the good will that we who live under this glorious flag are trying to build....

Just what is prejudice? It is a defect of character which creates one of the blackest spots on an individual or a nation's character. It is the result of preconceived judgment based on false information. It is an opinion formed beforehand without the examination of facts. It is ignorance. When and where is prejudice born? It is born in the mind of a child, and usually before that child has reached his tenth year of age. It is the result of the thoughtlessness of that child's first teachers—his parents, his brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends, all of whom discussed in the presence of that child their feelings and sentiments regarding people who happened to be of a different race or religion from themselves... That child will grow to manhood and not knowing why will be prejudiced against a certain race, a certain creed, because of those early impressions which time could not erase...

## FATHER FLANAGAN PRAYER

**G**od 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.**