

Without the false philosophy of ultra-pacifism, the Church has always been solicitous for the case of peace among the nations. She knows—better than any other agency or any government on the earth to-day, the horrors and ravages of war. She has suffered through nineteen hundred years of strife among the peoples of the globe, and well does she know the desolation and disaster which follows in the wake of conflict. — *Father Flanagan*



**FOR INFORMATION
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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—November

Father Flanagan's Prayer at Benedictine College Commencement, May 31, 1937:

It is my hope that you will measure up to this tradition, that each of you, will stand as a leader in your own sphere, serene in the knowledge that you possess the truth, unafraid of life for the faith which casts out fear. Remain loyal to the Church which is your Mother, and to the only life which is worth the living.

This is my hope and prayer for you—that you see the Church in all her glory for the blessing of your own lives—that you stand so steadfast in her cause that others may be attracted by your example to her.

This, and God bless you, is my parting word. He has blessed you with a heredity bright with promise. I pray that His blessing follows that promise to fulfillment...

*There is a stream whose runlets
gladden the city of God,
the holy dwelling of the Most High.
God is in its midst; it shall not be disturbed:
God will help it at the break of dawn.*

Psalm 46

FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

Excerpts from an Address delivered by Father Flanagan at the annual commencement of St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kansas, May 31, 1939

My efforts have been directed toward insuring the benefits and blessings of Christian culture for the underprivileged. The very existence of that culture in the twentieth century is no small measure due to the great Benedictine order. It was the first great teaching order in a Church which has always had, and shall always have, a social mission...

Look back upon the history of the world since Christ gave the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven to Peter...There was an index of a practical religion—one which had the care of men's lives in the **here** at heart, as well as a concern for their lives in the **hereafter**.

No one went hungry or cold in Christian Judea, not because a cold and scientifically precise governmental bureau was functioning efficiently, but because the dignity conferred on man when God became his brother was honestly esteemed. The common use of the term relief to describe the alleviation of social suffering and distress has come into being only in our own times...I point out that Christianity then was a practical means of conferring practical benefits, and I assert my belief that what it did once it can do again, if men and nations will but give it the opportunity.

The church is not...a work of human policy. Yet she is the source of immeasurable human benefits. Clearly these are the results of her social mission. Her Divine Founder, we are told in the Acts of the Apostles, both began **to do** and **to teach**. From Him, she received her social mission, and she has been faithful to it. Here adherence to it, always and everywhere, has meant peace, progress, and genuine social welfare for the world.

The Greeks and Romans regarded disease as a curse of the gods, and they were more concerned with the propitiation of the malevolent deities than they were with the care of the sick. The new religion brought a new conception...It saw men's bodies as the temples of the Holy Ghost, blessed with the hope and invested with the assurance of a glorified immortality.

Even in the days of the persecutions, the care of the sick was undertaken by the followers of Christ...The first beginnings of hospitalization, the prolongation and the conservation of life, were made in a day when the right of life itself was denied the faithful who made those beginnings. So firmly established was the concept of socialized medicine, that when liberty

was granted under Constantine, institutions for the care of the sick were at once publicly established. Hospital care was free to all who needed it. At Caesarea in Cappadocia, as early as the year three hundred sixty nine, there was a hospital established as large as a city, with surgery, workshops, a professional and an industrial school...Under Charlemagne there was a hospital in connection with every monastery.

The Crusades saw the rise of the military orders, who chief task was the care of the sick. So well and so firmly did these pioneers build, that when the Hohenzollerns were planning their magnificent capital, and were searching for an adequate plan for socialized medicine, they learned that the organization of hospitals under Pope Innocent III was so complete that there was not a city of more than five thousand in Germany which did not have its hospital...

In medicine, as in all phases of human endeavor, the Church has initiated, and seen to successful culmination the most lasting benefits the world has ever seen.

...Formal instruction began with Christ, and was perpetuated by His apostles. The Greeks had their schools, and the Romans copied after them, but genuine education is preparation for life and living, and neither the Greek nor the Roman curricula prepared for that. Life had little meaning under their philosophies. It became purposeful and meaningful only after Christ came down to share it with us... She carried all that was worthwhile in the old education over into the new. She touched it and enriched it, and when her mission spread to the north and west, she was already without a peer in the educational field.

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.**