

May the Immaculate Mother of God continue to plead with Her Divine Son, direct our actions and purify our intentions that this diocese (Omaha) under your (newly appointed Bishop Ryan) able administration shall grow rich in souls for the Kingdom of heaven.

— Fr. Flanagan



**FOR INFORMATION OR TO REPORT FAVORS GRANTED  
CONTACT:**

Father Flanagan League  
14057 Flanagan Blvd.  
Boys Town, NE 68010

[www.fatherflanagan.org](http://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 Seven—August

*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.**

---

*For God so loved the world that  
he gave his only Son  
so that everyone who believes in him  
might not perish but might have eternal life.  
For God did not send his Son into the world  
to condemn the world,  
but that the world might be saved through him.*

John 3:16-17, September 14, Exaltation of the Cross

## FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

### Sermon delivered on the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese of Omaha, December 8, 1935, Part I

...The history of the diocese of Omaha which must necessarily be the topic of my sermon is the history of apostolic zeal on the part of Bishops and Priests eager and yearning for the expansion of the Kingdom of Christ upon earth...

...Well might we celebrate today with grateful hearts, this Golden Jubilee. Well might we raise our hearts and minds and voices in thanksgiving to Almighty God and His Immaculate Mother this day. Well might we rejoice because of our gift of faith, a faith that has produced such men and women during the past history of the church in Nebraska, who have set us so noble an example of a truly missionary zeal like unto the Apostles in the early Church.

...The Vicariate of Nebraska was established by the Holy Father on the 6th of January, 1857, 28 years before the diocese of Omaha came into being. The first Vicar Apostolic to serve this territory was an Irish Trappist Monk from the new Mt. Mellery, near Dubuque, Iowa...His jurisdiction covered the present states of Nebraska, the two Dakotas west of the Missouri River, the whole state of Wyoming, and the state of Montana lying east of the Rocky mountains—a territory extending over some 375,000 square miles. He found over this great expanse of country a Catholic population of about 300 families of white settlers living along the river counties, and a few thousand Indians chiefly in Montana. He had two secular Priests and a Jesuit priest, the latter working mostly among the natives in Montana...His method of appointing a Priest in charge of a certain territory was quite unique and far removed from the canonical method now employed. He would take the Priest to the back door of his residence and looking out over that vast expanse of territory—hundreds of thousands of square miles, he would say, “Father, you go in that direction,” pointing the way with his hand.

I might state here that prior to the coming of Bishop O’Gorman as Vicar Apostolic, this territory was cared for under the jurisdiction of that famous Missionary Jesuit, Bishop Miege. The first Mass said in Omaha was in the Old State House which occupied that ground where Central High School now stands. This Mass was said either on the 14th or 15th of May, 1855, by a Father W. Edmonds

stationed for a time at Council Bluffs. Reverend Thomas Scanlon from St. Louis diocese dedicated the first Church in Omaha—St. Mary’s, in 1856. The first resident Pastor was the Rev. John Cavanaugh...Rev. William Kelly was the first Priest ordained in the state of Nebraska...June 25, 1859.

The first Vicar Apostolic of Nebraska was a man of real missionary spirit. He went forth on the Missions just like his few Priests whom he seldom saw, preaching, baptizing, confirming, bringing the word of God to the scattered members of the flock, giving his all with real apostolic zeal for Christ and Christ’s cause.

Bishop O’Gorman was not unmindful of the need of Catholic education of the youth even in those early days, when money was scarce, and Catholics few and scattered. He was blessed in finding an Order of Nuns who realized his needs and were inspired by his missionary spirit. These religious women forearmed by prayer and a willingness to sacrifice came and ministered to the lambs of the flock.

The Sisters of Mercy of the Vicariate of Nebraska, and later of the dioceses of Omaha,...landed in Omaha, October, 1864. Like the early women in the Gospel, they came out here to the then, vast unknown...They established schools, an orphanage, later a hospital...For 14 years they were the only Order of Religious women in the territory.

---

## 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.**