

That these boys must be given a chance to live, grow and expand, goes without mention. Every boy in this great country of ours has a natural right to this. Men of means and influence, men who are leaders in our communities of finances, business and commerce must recognize this fact and must get together to finance and encourage works of this kind. Let it never be said of a successful business man that he turned a deaf ear on a worthy appeal for constructive work in his community.

— *Father Flanagan, Boys Home Journal, May, 1920*



**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 Eight—April

Father Flanagan's Prayer :

Bring about, Dear Lord, a spiritual union of all the nations of the world built on the understanding that we are all Your children and You are our Heavenly and Eternal Father.

Teach us all the great dignity of our state in life as children of You, brothers of Your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, nurtured and strengthened by Your Holy Spirit....

All this we ask, and beg of You, in Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen!

You shall not violate the rights of the alien
or of the orphan, nor take
the clothing of a widow as a pledge.
For, remember, you were once slaves in Egypt,
and the Lord, your God
ransomed you from there.

Deuteronomy 24.17-18a

FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

Father Flanagan's Boys Home Journal, February 1926, "My Page"

If men and women of wealth were to realize the great responsibility that rests upon them as members of society, most of them would measure up to the standard of proportionate giving, and the financial difficulties of social welfare workers would be eliminated. I have watched most carefully the organization and progress campaigns for Community Service, and have come to the conclusion that the failure to raise sufficient funds to carry on the work for social service comes from this cause.

Of course, it is difficult and perhaps odious of a Campaign Committee to state what any individual should give toward a certain work of charity or philanthropy. This really must be decided by the giver, but the giver must be conscientious about his duty as a citizen of the community, or as a member from whom this aid is rightfully demanded.

Each one knows what he can best afford to give, and with this knowledge imbued with a conscientious community spirit, there is no reason why any necessary campaign for funds should fail.

I have often been asked the question: "What is the need of further legislation to protect the interests and future welfare of the homeless children against profiteering?" I might answer the question in this way. As long as there are selfish people in the world who seem to be devoid of conscience, so long will helpless children be a prey to such people. I have seen so much of this selfishness after a careful analysis of many cases, that would be otherwise incredible were I not in possession of the facts. Fine boys, bubbling over with enthusiasm at the prospects of going into a home, and one which had all the ear-marks of a good home, but lacking in the heart and soul of such a home, soon realize that their sole purpose in coming there was not because of love, but for service. Only in as far as that boy could render a service for, and above the expense of his board, was he considered valuable and appreciated. Love, interest in the boy's personal welfare, or solicitation for his future never entered into the minds of his would-be adopters.

Were he to stop here matters would not be so bad, but as soon as there was no more service to be rendered, then a charge of some kind must be brought against the boy so he may be returned without any special trouble or explanation... The man never spent one dollar on the boy all this time. I presume the man thinks he did all right; his banker perhaps thinks likewise, also all the others still continue to have faith in the man; all except the boy himself, and the Home that had placed confidence in him.

In my estimation, such treatment is criminal, and a penalty by law should be put on this kind of selfishness and greed.

ABOUT FATHER FLANAGAN

From a sermon by Bishop Ryan at the Dedication of Dowd Memorial Chapel, January 5, 1941:

The best kind of education, the highest type of training, the most expert social assistance are all combined here with religion, the very heart and soul of Boys Town, with the purpose of forming and developing boys who will be able to face the duties of American citizenship with intelligence, courage, and with spiritual stamina...

Quotes from Mary A Dowd of New York City at the Dedication:

"My brothers always wanted to do something for poor boys," Miss Dowd said. "I wanted to carry out their wish but didn't know just what to do until I saw the movie, 'Boys Town.'"

So impressed and touched was she by the picture that she saw it four times, she said. She became interested in the home and after visiting Boys Town she decided to build and equip a chapel.

"This is the happiest day of my life," she told a reporter. "It was the most beautiful ceremony I have ever seen. Those little fellows in the choir were just grand."

"You folks in Omaha ought to do more for Boys Town," Miss Dowd said. "Why don't you form some sort of a club and give something to the home every month?"

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.**