
Christian charity does not consist in the shedding of tears, or in mere preaching, but rather in the doing of that which we preach, and in the actual alleviation of the conditions that bring about those tears.

— *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 Eight—March

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!

Come, you whom my Father has blessed,
says the Lord:

I was ill and you comforted me.
I tell you, anything you did
for one of my brothers,
you did for me.

Entrance Antiphon, March 8, 2011
Feast of St. John of God

FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

From Father Flanagan's Page, Father Flanagan's Boys Home Journal, January, 1930

Our boys have a difficult time waiting until April to come so that they will then be able to use the new buildings scheduled to be ready by that time. Also, the present wooden buildings cannot be used during the cold days of winter, and our activities must be curtailed.

When the new buildings are finished, we hope that every friend of our Home will make a special trip to visit us. Even though the new buildings are not completed, you are invited to come out to our Home. Every year we have several thousand visitors, and we are proud to say that the visitors are all agreeably surprised to find the kind of home we have at Overlook Farm.

We shall be glad to dedicate a song over our regular Sunday afternoon radio period to all those writing for such dedication. We are especially anxious to dedicate numbers to the old folks having fiftieth wedding anniversaries, and so forth.

It is a mighty fine thing for all of us to occasionally get away from everyone and get acquainted with ourselves. What a splendid time to do this now with a new year just beginning. By making a critical analysis of ourselves we can lay the foundation for a better year.

It cannot be denied that man, in his path through life, does meet with circumstances over which he has no control. But, it is equally true that no man need let circumstances control him. Conditions cannot control any man, nor keep him down, nor hold him back, for any length of time, if only he refuses to know the meaning of discouragement, if only he meets each setback with a strengthened determination.

Recently a noted bandmaster from Indianapolis, Ind., made a public statement to the Associated Press, saying that good music makes good boys. It seems to us that there is a great deal of truth in this statement. At the Home there are three different bands who have gained a reputation that is hard to surpass. They have played at several civic and state affairs and twice before former President Calvin Coolidge.

ABOUT FATHER FLANAGAN

Quotes from Msgr. Peter Dunne
Last Living Priest to Have Worked with Father Flanagan

Father Flanagan believed that if we become better people, the whole society will be better. As he started working with young people, his thinking switched from reforming the social order to transforming the person.

Father Flanagan was a witness of love.

I felt Father Flanagan suffered because he was different from the "normal." He challenged the existing mores and values of society. He gave society direction, stability, and strength that would prove to be a tremendous hope and recognition that down deep we all treasure goodness.

He was ahead of his time. Boys Town was integrated, no second-class status for non-whites; he made sure the spiritual needs of all boys were respected and met, regardless of their religion.

In the early years of Boys Town as an institution, adoption was considered a possibility. Many times in the spring couples would come and ask for a child. They would have a trial period together. Eventually Father Flanagan saw the pattern – couples coming for a boy when farming season started, then returning him when winter arrived because "it didn't work out." He said no more adoptions – *Boys Town* was his boys' family and home.

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.**