

I wish to express my thanks, especially to the children of St. Cecelia's School...Such an expression of Charity on the part of children is indeed encouraging, for it shows the sympathy of the most favored children for the less fortunate little ones. I believe that if parents were to instill into their children that spirit of Charity for the poor, unfortunate and erring, it would be one of the greatest helps toward safeguarding the morals of their children, and protecting them against the many dangers and pitfalls which assail them. — *Father Flanagan*

(writing about the first Thanksgiving at the Home—1921)



**FOR INFORMATION
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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 Eight—November

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!

*Therefore, my beloved,
be steadfast, immovable,
always excelling
in the work of the Lord,
because you know that
in the Lord
your labor is not in vain.*

1Corinthians 15.58

FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS— 1937

We are face to face with the refusal of many worthy boys each day. We know what we could do for these poor boys if we only had the room and financial backing to care for them. However, we do not have any assistance from church, state, city or community chest organization. All of our help must come from voluntary contributions, and while our friends have been wonderful to us, still we receive no large contributions and have just barely enough to meet our annual budget of expense without any building program included.

Our next program is a dormitory for 500 boys which will enable us to take in the boys we are now turning away. It is so much better to care for them while little fellows, and may I say more economical to society...my greatest happiness comes when I hear of former boys who are now successful... I watch them through the years and share their joys and sorrows.

Wouldn't you be happy if you received a letter as I did just a few days ago from one of my former boys. He came to our Home in 1919. Five years later he left our Home and shortly after was married. Now he has a family and just recently has opened his own Burglar Alarm system in Cleveland, Ohio. When I received this letter I was more than happy for that same day his brother, who had also been at our Home, installed a new lighting system at Boys Town. He is working for one of the leading electrical companies in Omaha.

Let me tell you of another boy who has made success of his life although under the hardest difficulties. When we have moved to our second home a mother brought her boy to me. When I entered the room the boy was seated in the chair. After hearing the mother's story I told her I would accept the boy, and as she left, I escorted her to the door. Imagine my surprise when I returned and told the boy to come with me, he could not walk. He was a victim of infantile paralysis. For years I gave him the best medical care I could get and at the same time made sure his education was not neglected. Where is he today? He is office manager of a nationally known concern. His mother never returned and we never heard from her again. Neither he nor I know anything of his mother or father. You can imagine the wonderful fortitude this young man must have to carry on. Even today he is studying nights to attain his ambition, that of an airplane designer.

Two brothers came to visit me last year, the other brother could not join them. All three were at our Home at one time. Hans could not even speak English when he came to me. Today he is the manager and treasurer of one of the largest advertising concerns in the United States. Another brother is manager of a large furniture factory in Alabama, and the third is manager of a chain of nationally known hotels.

From Father Flanagan's Boys Home Journal, 1921

Our first Thanksgiving at the Home was celebrated in a very special manner, as all of us have great things for which to be thankful... We have not had (plenty of money and a fine and well-equipped Home) but have had greater things than these—the wonderful help which God so loves to give those whom He sees are trying to assist even the least of His little ones. Our work is dear to the Heart of our Divine Lord, and in our many needs we feel that we are more like unto the God-Man Himself who suffered the wants of so many necessities of life.

For the great spiritual help which we have received during the first year of the Home's existence, we are most thankful, and it was indeed a pleasing sight to see and hear our boys pouring aloud their fervent prayers of thanksgiving to God for his kindness and goodness to them. We are thankful for the many evidences of spiritual improvement which we have had with our boys during the past year. This is our much desired object and in a very great measure, we have succeeded.

We are grateful and thankful to the kind ladies who from the very beginning of the Home have taken such an intense interest in helping us, and I might say here, that had it not been for their co-operation, the Home could never have kept its doors wide open...We are thankful to the general public of Omaha, who, so generously, have contributed towards the Home...our fervent prayers on that morning were offered up in gratitude to God for remembering us so generously in our poverty...and prayed that He in turn would recompense our kind benefactors...

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.**