
Let us not forget children always seek the good will, praise and love of others, and nothing is so certain to kill and destroy their ambition and spirit as fault-finding and scolding. —Fr. Flanagan



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GRANTED
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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.**

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Father Edward J. Flanagan
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

Father Flanagan League:
Society of Devotion

Prayer Leaflet

Year Two—August

Excerpts from Father Flanagan's prayers

O Heavenly Father, we acknowledge with grateful hearts Your numerous graces and blessings bestowed upon us, as individuals and as a nation that is especially favored by You.

We are quite conscious, Dear Lord, of our unworthiness and inability to accomplish any good of ourselves, and hence recognize that all good comes through You, Our Lord and Master.

Teach us, Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, a deep sense of our duties and responsibilities not only towards our own children but all children who come within our reach of influence... Teach us, Dear Lord, to be unselfish, with our time and our talent...to set a good example by that unselfishness, and by our way of life, that we may set forth a pattern to the young...

Dear Lord, our children are so precious, so needed to be trained and developed into a citizenry that will be wholesome and constructive that all their thoughts, words and actions may be directed towards You and mutual service to each other, which will insure a safe and sane citizenry strong enough to protect it against the powers of evil. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
Amen!

*Lord, you have been our refuge
through all generations.
Fill us at daybreak with your love,
that all our days we may sing for joy.*
Psalm 90.1.14

Our Home grew so rapidly that our first quarters were soon outgrown, and we were forced to move with our 50 boys to larger and more spacious quarters. Here in four months our Home grew to 150 boys, and after four years we were forced to move again for the third and last time to the site of our present Home. At first we had 160 acres on which we had constructed frame buildings similar to the government cantonments of the war days or our present day C.C.C. camps.

This was a great event in our lives—moving day. All of our 150 boys were moved in one day by trucks loaned us by business houses, as were our belongings. Our boys were all delighted to go out on a modern farm where we could have our own cows, sheep, cattle, horses, pigs and chickens.

Many of the boys had never been on a farm and you might imagine the excitement when they arrived that first day. The whole farm was explored and nothing left unnoticed from their bewildered eyes..

I need hardly tell you that those of us who had to do with the gathering up our 150 charges had much to do that day to get them together for meals and duties that must not be overlooked even though it was moving day. Everything went along, however, according to schedule, but I might assure it was done without the customary application of their minds and with much commotion.

As we settled down to our new surroundings, and our boys became more accustomed to the wholesome fresh air of the country—the first fresh fruit, vegetables, milk, eggs and butter from our farm, we really began to build up what is today known as Boys Town. The following year we turned our attention towards the building of more permanent buildings to house our boys, and this we accomplished through the aid of the good citizens of Omaha who raised sufficient money to build our first unit.

...In the beginning when we were trying to establish our Home,

naturally our boys came mostly from Omaha and surrounding territory, but as we grew and the Home's policy became better known to the general public, boys started coming from many states.

It really surprised me to know the great need of such a Home, and again I was saddened because of the lack of facilities of caring for abandoned children elsewhere, as our motto has been that this Home was for the homeless and abandoned boy who had no place else to go.

Our Home also decided from the start that it must be for all types of homeless boys regardless of race, creed or color. A homeless boy is a homeless boy, be he Catholic, Protestant, Jew—white, black or yellow. Unless a homeless boy is given the proper care and guidance just as his more privileged brothers, he can become a very dangerous and expensive criminal to society. Here our policy has ever remained non-sectarian, and non-proselytizing.

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.**