
I have no fear for the future in Ireland. On the contrary, as I have said before, I almost envy the blessings and opportunities you enjoy. I wish we could recapture for our own youth that atmosphere of faith and spiritual dignity.

— Fr. Flanagan



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DONATIONS

**We are a federally recognized
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Donations may be made out
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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.**

*Moreover, God is able to make every grace
abundant for you, so that in all things,
always having all you need, you may have
an abundance for every good work.*

2 Cor. 9:7 August 10, Feast of St. Lawrence

Blessed the man who is gracious and lends to those in need.

Psalm 112

FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

From Father Flanagan's Speech, June, 1946, "The Future of Ireland"

And now, if I turn to express to you my hopes and prayers for the future of Ireland, you will not be surprised to hear an Irish priest say that there is one prayer and one hope uppermost in his heart—a prayer and hope which surpasses and indeed includes all others. It is this: that Ireland will continue to be as loyal to the Faith as she has always shown herself in the past. No more glorious future than that could I or anyone else wish for her. If she remains worthy of her past, what glory she will bring to God and what immense blessings to men!

For Ireland finds herself today in an historical moment not unlike the moment when she first brought forth the scholars and missionaries of her golden Age. When the Roman Empire fell and civilization and Christianity were tottering in Europe, Ireland had escaped the ravages; and she sent out, from the sixth to the ninth century, a stream of devoted men who worked for the spiritual and cultural regeneration of tortured Europe. She was able to play a part far beyond what might have been expected from a poor remote people, insignificant and powerless from the worldly point of view. Centuries later she played a similar part in very different circumstances. For when her own day of trial came, and persecution tried to stamp out our faith and culture, Irishmen once more went out into the world, forced now by poverty and suffering into exile, in America, in Africa, in the Antipodes; but once more they brought the faith with them and spread far and wide a great spiritual empire.

Today Ireland, almost alone in a shattered Europe, enjoys peace and comparative prosperity at home. She has been preserved again, as she was in the sixth century, from the material devastation and the still more terrifying spiritual degradation that have fallen upon so many unhappy people. I have no doubt that the Ireland of today will receive the grace to rise to the full heights of her latest opportunity; and will help to save in the 20th century, as she did before, the religion and culture of the Continent; and become a bulwark against the tide of Godless materialism and brutality. If so, then countless generations will bless the little country which, at one of the great turning points of history, will have helped to keep humanity on the right path—the path of the spirit, the path of the Christian charity and faith...

Eire has shown a magnificent example to the world in protecting the rights and caring for the susceptibilities of her minorities. In the short space of time that has elapsed since she achieved her independence, she has succeeded in winning the enthusiastic loyalty of those of her citizens who, by

training and environment, were most bitterly opposed to the national ideal. When Ireland is once again united, she must and will pursue the same path of sensitive understanding and of welcome to all her citizens, whatever their faith or political creed; and so she will bring about the day when Irish Protestants and Orangemen will join hands with Irish Catholics and Gaels in making this lovely land free and safe and happy for all its citizens, and in setting once again an example of freedom of true democracy, of enlightened social progress, and of spiritual idealism that will be a kindly beacon in a world that is darkened by force and hatred and material greed.

ABOUT FATHER FLANAGAN

Father Flanagan's trip to Ireland in June, 1946: The family later drove to the family home at Leabeg, Ballymoe. Welcomed in a simple and joyful homecoming. Hundreds of children gathered around the car that brought him from Rinneanna to Ballymoe. Bonfires blazed outside Ballymoe. Scrolls bore the simple inscription "Welcome", and bunting and tricolors spanned the streets. At Fuerty, a few miles from Ballymoe, he was met by a procession of cars which escorted him to Ballymoe. He visited Belfast, where 50,000 people lined a two-mile route into the city. With Most Rev. Dr. Mageean, Bishop of Down and Connor, drove in an open motor car, escorted by 3,000 members of Catholic and Gaelic youth organizations.

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.**