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We owe a debt to these young boys and girls who will be the men and women of tomorrow—a debt of preparation, so that when we hand over to them the reigns of government, they will find some stability and order to begin with. — *Fr. Flanagan*



**FOR INFORMATION OR TO REPORT FAVORS GRANTED  
CONTACT:**

Father Flanagan League  
14057 Flanagan Blvd.  
Boys Town, NE 68010

[www.fatherflanagan.org](http://www.fatherflanagan.org)

**DONATIONS**

**We are a federally recognized  
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For religious purposes.  
Donations may be made out  
to FFLSD and sent  
to the address above.**

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**Father Steven E. Boes, Executive Director**



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**Father Edward J. Flanagan**  
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

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**Father Flanagan League:**  
*Society of Devotion*

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Prayer Leaflet

Year One—December

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*From Father Flanagan's prayer at Central High School Youth Rally, April 30, 1940.*

...Teach our young people, Dear Lord, the basic and essential truth on which their lives are to be built for You. Teach them to respect the authority vested by You in their parents and superiors who are in truth Your Divinely constituted representatives over them. Teach them to love, respect and obey their parents and superiors, and, thus guided by them by example as well as precept, these young people may develop a great spirit of reverence towards You, their God and Creator, and recognize their duties and obligations as expressed in Your Divine Commandments.

Dear Lord, sin and sorrow and suffering have come into the world and into the ranks of youth because of improper teaching and neglect of children...Help the young to understand better their duties and obligations that with this knowledge, they may go forth as missionaries for You to spread the Gospel of love and worship throughout the land. Give them the strength to become spiritual giants that they may accomplish grand and noble things by setting a fine example in their own personal lives as true children of You, their God and Creator.

O Holy Spirit, inspire the young that they may be capable of analyzing the causes which sometimes upset youth and reach conclusions that will bring peace and happiness. All this I ask in God's Holy Name. Amen!

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*Whoever has two cloaks should share  
with the person who has none.  
And whoever has food should do likewise.*

*Luke 3.11*

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## From FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

*(Father Flanagan's Page, Father Flanagan's Boys' Home Journal, December, 1932, page 2):*

To the thousands of friends in almost every state in the Union who have helped by boys, through their contributions and through their good will, I extend my heartfelt gratitude, and that of all my boys who have come to me seeking only the chance to grow up to be good men. We offer you remembrance in our humble prayers and the lives of these boys are the living memorial of your charity. To help one homeless child, to know that through your assistance he was given a chance which the world and circumstance had denied him, surely no greater charity exists. Our work is only begun. There is much ahead of all of us to do for the thousands of homeless boys who are suffering now from economic ills of our nation.

This is the month when all the Christian nations of the world observe in solemn worship the birth of Our Lord in Bethlehem. From that day on through the ages down to the present day the meaning of life has changed, and the way made nobler. Christmas Day is a day of rejoicing when every heart that is truly happy wishes to make others happy. On that day more than on any other day of the year, kind men and women try to fill every child's heart with gladness, no matter where the child may live...The spirit of the Child Jesus treads the lowliest walks of life, and is expressed in the wonderful charity of His creatures.

Homeless children, some of whom have never known the warmth of home fires, the love of mother or father, the joy of receiving gifts on Christmas morning, are among the heaviest of heart when this day draws near. They feel that they are forgotten, singled out to be different. Only the helping hands of their dear friends will make that day happy and glorious for them.

It takes so little in a material way to gladden the heart of a child. Perhaps a toy, or a bag of candy or other treat, or some warm piece of clothing, will lift a little heart out of its grief into the realm of happiness only a child knows. If he is cold and hungry, shelter and food will make a different child of him. If his heart is hungry,

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then only the love of others will help him.

This year the boys of the Home are looking to their friends to help them over this Christmas season. We have many boys here now who were not with us last year. Some of them perhaps were snug in their own homes with their father and mothers.

But the months since last Christmas have broken the home, and scattered the family. In many cases death has separated the family. The boys were homeless or abandoned. Now they are here with me, and with God's help, we shall try to make this a truly happy Christmas for each and every boy at Overlook Farm.

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## 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.**