

I have told you, I think, in my other two letters that our Home is supported by voluntary contributions and I really couldn't tell you, as I have no way of estimating, what percentage of Catholics support my Home, what percentage of Protestants support my Home, and what percentage of people who belong to no church support my Home.

-Father Flanagan

Note: This is Father Flanagan's response to a letter from Mr. Sill, March 21, 1945, who asked why the Catholic Church, "the richest church in the world," does not contribute to Boys Town.

**FOR INFORMATION OR TO REPORT FAVORS GRANTED
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Boys Town, NE 68010

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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
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 Three—December

From 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.

*The Cord is king! Let the earth rejoice;
Let the many coastlands be glad!
Righteousness and justice are the
foundation of his throne...
He guards the lives of his faithful.*

From Fr. Flanagan's writings

Father Flanagan's 1947 Christmas Day radio message for those serving in the army; transcription made by Radio Station KOIL.

Our thoughts today go back across the centuries. On the hill nearby shepherds are watching their flocks. In a distance a jackel raises its voice to the stars. A lamb stirs. And again the night is still. Suddenly, an angel appears, and about him there is a great light. The shepherds are frightened.

“Fear not,” says the angel; “for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people: For, this day, is born to you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in the City of David. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.”

The light is gone as quickly and as mysteriously as it came. Stars once more are seen overhead. But now there is one star that is brighter than the rest. And as it is seen in the East, a heavenly chorus is heard, singing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will.”

This Christmas Day another mighty chorus is heard. Over the ether waves through the magic of radio, in the candle-lighted homes, in the cathedrals and churches—wherever people are today—there can be heard many voices singing in many tongues the joyous hymn of Christmas— “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will.”

A tiny babe has captured the hearts of men, for this tiny babe is the Son of God, the promised Messiah, the Prince of Peace, who came into the world to redeem us from sin, who came to save us from our prejudices and jealousies, from distrust, from hatred, from suffering and sorrow, from war.

This is the day the prophet foretold. This is the day for which men looked and waited—from the Garden of Eden to the reign of Augustus—only now it is not we who wait for the Infant Jesus but the Infant Jesus who waits for us. His arms are still outstretched for those who will come. He would bring peace to

nations floundering in materialism and groping in darkness.

As we contemplate this mystery of love we understand in part the meaning of this self-abnegation, this chosen expression of poverty, and our hearts are humbled. Men and women and nations who accept the Christ of the crib and His message of peace should renew their prayers before that crib.

The men of the army—at home and abroad—kneel this Holy Day before this Holy Crib with a prayer on their lips for the good will and peace which they are helping to secure. Our thoughts and our hearts go out to them.

May this holy season bring to them and their loved ones the blessings of the Babe of Bethlehem and may the spirit of the Babe of Bethlehem enter into their hearts with a permeating spirit of love and sacrifice for God and their fellowman.

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.