
...my greatest happiness comes when I hear of former boys who are now successful in the world of business...These boys are my children and they are all I have to show for my humble efforts so naturally I watch them through the years and share their joys and sorrows. — *Father Flanagan*



**FOR INFORMATION
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Donations

**We are a federally recognized 501 c3 nonprofit
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religious purposes.
Donations may be made out
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Father Steven E. Boes, Executive Director



Father Edward J. Flanagan
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

*Father Flanagan League:
Society of Devotion*

Prayer Leaflet

Year Seven—December

Father Flanagan's Prayer for Parents:

O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, look down with gracious eye on us fathers and mothers of this world. Teach us, Dear Lord, to know and understand the high position which we as parents hold in Your divine plan of creation – the guardianship of Your Precious Little ones.

Give us, Dear Lord, the strength and patience to teach by example and precept our precious children and lead them along the paths of virtues, onward and upward towards You, their loving and All Gracious God.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen!

*May the glory of the Cord endure forever:
May the Cord be glad in his works!
Pleasing to him be my theme:
I will be glad in the Cord.*

Psalm 104

FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

From Father Flanagan's writing in the late 1930's, about his Boys Home

Boys Town is an incorporated town or village with its own second class post office, theatre, laundry, schools, church, print shop, its own paper, its own boy mayor and boy commissioners and everything that goes to make up a complete self-governing town. The boys enter into the spirit of our Home government most seriously and a visit to our town during election time will show you that there are very few tricks of the astute politician that our boys have not mastered. They have their political rallies with music furnished by the Boys Town band, the never failing promises of the candidates, the buying of votes with candy and enumerable other ways of the vote getting politician. Of course there is no padding of votes at the polls. The election commissioners see that everything is properly conducted according to law and justice.

Perhaps some may be skeptical concerning this form of boy government, but when I tell you that boys know best how to govern themselves, I say it after 20 years experience in the handling of boys. I have had some of the nation's best boy men—boy leaders, men who have had marvelous success in boy work, and I find that there was not the freedom, the confidence, the normal growth in character development under these men as there is and has been under boy government since we incorporated three years ago.

As a function of boy government, we have our stated court sessions every Tuesday and Fridays evenings at 7:30 P.M. At these meetings the mayor is the presiding Judge. Here are brought the young offenders to law and order of our little community. In the court there is no injustice dealt out—here there are no alibis—the young offender is asked to narrate his own story and punishment is meted out accordingly. Here there are no jails, no whippings, no brutality. But we have our punishment, too, as a deterrent to commit these offenses again. Punishment is only administered when the Judge feels that the offender has the mistaken idea he is just a little too smart for the court, and to repeaters.

The court tries to fit the punishment to the offense. For example: A boy was assisting the gardener one day in his work. He was given the pet blind horse to use in cultivating. While at the end of the field he drove the horse down a sharp incline for amusement, or as he said, "Just to see what it would do." An alert commissioner who was making his rounds of inspection saw the boy, reprimanded him and told him to report the following Tuesday at court. When the boy told his story he was seriously reprimanded and as a penalty he had to report every afternoon for one week on the foot-

ball field. Here for one hour he stood blind-folded. Another boy might sneak into the indoor swimming pool when he should be elsewhere. He, too, would face the court. Naturally his excuse would be, he liked to swim. For direct disobedience, the following week he would take his bath each day and then while 200 boys were swimming, splashing and playing water polo, he would stand at one side and look on. His swimming privilege for one week was taken from him.

Another boy might show disrespect or impertinence to his superiors. All our boys like the movie shows we have each week. For punishment this boy must stand with his back to the screen while the other boys are enjoying the show. Very severe you might say. So did I, but it is the Mayor's idea and as he said: "Father, it works," and that is all.

The Mayor and Commissioners actually function in their different offices. The Mayor as the head merely supervises and advises the Commissioners. If he wishes to make any radical change in the daily schedule, he brings his plan to me. If I think it is a good move, I approve of it; if not, I explain to him why I do not think it is advisable. In either case he will abide by my decision as final.

...The present Mayor will leave us in the spring having been signed with the St. Louis Browns on an "A" contract as pitcher for next year. It is rumored he will pitch for the Des Moines, Iowa, team.

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.**