
Children are not born to be bad. They come unspoiled from the hand of God. It is our duty, as parents and members of society, to protect them from bad influences in the world where they grow to young womanhood and young manhood. We must not allow environmental influences to remove the look of Hope which God has put in their eyes, nor the spark of enthusiasm which He has put in their hearts.

—Father Flanagan



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DONATIONS

**We are a federally recognized
501 c3 nonprofit charitable organization
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



Father Edward J. Flanagan
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

Father Flanagan League:
Society of Devotion

Prayer Leaflet

Year One, February

From Fr. Flanagan's Prayer for Peace:

O Infinite God of Mercy and Love for Men, we beg you for pity and compassion on the world that has wandered away from your Holy Gospel of Peace and Love. You have created man with a soul like unto Thee, precious in your sight, a soul that is immortal and eternal. The purpose of Your Creation is love...love for You Our God, and love for our fellow man because of You—for in loving man for Your sake we recognize in him this precious soul.

...Bring about, Dear Lord, a spiritual union of all the nations of the world built on the understanding that we are all Your children and You are our Heavenly and Eternal Father. Teach us all the great dignity of our state in life as children of You, brothers of Your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, nurtured and strengthened by Your Holy Spirit...

With humble and contrite hearts...we beg of You, Our Lord and Master, to put an end to all ruthless slaughter, and with the dawn of Peace may a new hope come to the world, a hope based on faith in You, our God, faith and hope that will bring forth a burning fire of love upon the earth that will illuminate the path of man's weary pilgrimage on earth toward his Heavenly throne.

All this we ask, and beg of You, in Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen!

*God himself is my help.
The Cord upholds my life.
I will offer you a willing sacrifice:
I will praise your name, O Cord, for its goodness.*

Psalm 53

FROM FR. FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS
BOYS TOWN TIMES, AUGUST 13, 1943

Have you ever known a boy who couldn't trust himself? A boy who never seemed to get anything done because he could never be sure that he would finish what he started? He had high ambitions, but he never quite reached the goals or ideals he might have. This boy wasn't fair to himself, because he wasn't true to himself.

...That same boy couldn't always be depended on by people who knew him. His friends all liked him, but they could never be sure that he would do what he said he was going to do. He was a good boy, but he didn't know he couldn't be true to his friends if he were not true to himself.

I've known such boys and I know you have. If you think carefully, you'll probably see some reflection of your own life in their actions... it's so easy for us all to be untrue to our own selves by doing things that we know are wrong, or by neglecting to do the things we know are right and should be done...

By making our own characters strong individually we can be sure we are doing our part to make us stand strong together. I've always urged you to help others and if possible do what they want you to do, but you're not helping your own character to foolishly do everything they say...If you know that not doing it is the right thing, you can show that you have a mind of your own by using your will power and saying "no." And, by doing so, you will be true to yourself, for you will be doing yourself some good.

When I say will power, I don't mean the idle word you speak so lightly of and are so sure you've got...it's carrying out the plans you've set up for your own good, regardless of what looks good to you at the moment; it's telling the truth when a little white lie is the easy way out of some difficulty.

No, will power isn't just a word, it's very much alive and goes hand in hand through life with truth... it is only through will power that our moral characters can be developed to the high degree of goodness that is truly intended for us.

...In the church, we try to tell you what is right and what is wrong, but after that, it's in your own hands...it is only by living a clean, healthy life that we can get all the good out of life that God intended us to, but to do so, we must do more than think of doing it. Thinking right is far removed from acting right...you alone know whether you are doing what is right.

Now is the time to cultivate a good moral character...It's easy to find boys who can recognize what is right from wrong, but it's harder to find one who always will stand up for what is right in the face of oppositions. I don't mean that this will result in you being perfect...There is nothing perfect on earth...But the outcome of any work is always judged by the quality of the effort, and the more perfect the person, the more perfect the work. And we can all make ourselves more perfect if we are fair to ourselves by being true to ourselves.

God made us in his own image and likeness—a true perfect being...By being true to ourselves, we can then be true to God...

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.**