
Half the battle of life is won if you go into it with a never-die spirit, a fighting courage and good hard work.”

-Fr. Flanagan



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GRANTED
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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.**

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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 Three—February

From Father 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!

*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the
greatest and the first commandment. The second is
like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

Matthew 22. 37-40

From Fr. Flanagan's writings

(Radio Talk, WOW, Father Flanagan's Boys' Home Journal, December, 1927, page 13):

Thousands of visitors have come to Overlook Farm during the time we have had our Home located there, and besides being greatly impressed with our boys and their cheerfulness, I have noticed that a large number take a decided interest in the opportunities which our Home gives to the boys to learn trades. Which leads to my discussion today—the necessity of teaching trades to boys so that when they grow up and are able to leave our Home, they will be independent and not need to worry about the future.

When a lad leaves this Home at the age of seventeen or eighteen, provided he is not adopted, I want him to have confidence in himself just like the graduate who leaves the University in June... That's just the way I want the graduates of our Home to go forth—just packed full of self-confidence, ready to tackle any problem, any job...

And, permit me to say here, the man who goes into his work with an expression on his lips and a determination in his heart to do the job right and to do it better than anyone else, has the work half done...That is the kind of boys and young men we are trying to produce at Father Flanagan's Boys' Home and that is why we urge these boys to learn trades so that they can be confident of the tomorrows to come.

It costs more to equip a Home with the ability to teach various trades...you must provide capable teachers...good buildings...a wide variation of trades, so that the boys will not be forced to accept certain trades against their wishes...they know what they want...

We teach printing, carpentry, baking, farming, horticulture, dairying, poultry raising, stenography, filing, office work, music and various other things...If a boy is serious about studying the violin as a livelihood, we give him that opportunity...we do not institutionalize our boys; we aim to individualize them.

...a Home like ours should have some kind of an agency to help these boys find jobs...We never turn a boy away from our

Home after he has been graduated without getting him a job; if he loses that and is still dependent on the Home, we try to get him another place, and so on...

Permit me to offer this advice...The fortunate boy, and when I speak of the fortunate boy, I mean the boy who has a home of his own with loving parents, the fortunate boy should take just as much precaution...You must also learn a trade...Do not make up your mind too soon, and do not continue some childhood fancy in deciding upon what trade or profession you want to follow.

I like to see the boy who gets a job in a print shop and dreams that very day of being president of the firm...Half the battle of life is won if you go into it with a never-die spirit, a fighting courage and good hard work.

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.