

I believe one of the many causes for delinquency among boys is lack of understanding between parents, guardians, teachers, and their charges, and the failure on the part of those to right that misunderstanding creates a widening and deepening of that channel through which misunderstood youths rush onward and downward to the malestorm of wasted lives, blasted hopes, and utter failures to society.

— Fr. Flanagan



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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
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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—February

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.**

*What we ask God is that
through perfect wisdom and spiritual
understanding you should reach the
fullest knowledge of his will. So you will be able
to lead the kind of life which the Lord expects of you.
a life acceptable to him in all its aspects;
showing the results in all the good actions you do
and increasing your knowledge of God.*
(Colossians 1.9b-10)

FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

Father Flanagan's Boys' Home Journal, December, 1927, pages 7 and 8

I remember some years ago a boy came to us from an institute for the deaf in Illinois, having been placed there by an aunt because his hearing was a little defective. The aunt evidently wanted to get rid of her charge the easiest way possible, so she put him in this institute for the deaf. Here the child lived for two years, where silence for him was far from being golden. You can imagine the state of that child's mind, practically normal, except for a slight deafness which medical treatment could easily eliminate, thrown in with hopelessly deaf children, compelled to learn the sign language, and instead of making mental progress, retrogressing day by day by losing the gift of God—his speech. Through some friend of the boy's aunt, we were notified of the case, and we took him immediately. I had him examined by an ear specialist who pronounced his case as one of slight deafness which could have been permanently cured had it been attended to in time. With treatment he has much improved. Last year that boy passed the eighth grade county examination here at the Douglas county court house, is the head cornetist of my radio band, and is well on his way towards mastering the printing trade. In another year that boy will be able to go out and earn from \$25 to \$35 a week in a print shop, and, in fact, today he could get from \$15 to \$20 a week, but prefers to learn his trade at my Home where he will receive more personal attention...

We have examples by the hundreds of talented, healthy, normal boys who had proven to be too difficult to care for by widowed mothers, helpless fathers, or indifferent relatives. These boys, because of lack of supervision at home, or no supervision at all, were becoming very much neglected. They wouldn't go to school half the time, and when they did, accomplished little or no results. Not having the proper kind of home, they, naturally, sought companionship on the streets and in the alleys with similarly neglected types of boys. In fact, their home ceased to be what it should be—a place to radiate love, interest, proper care, and an exacting discipline, which children should respond to by gratitude and strict obedience...The work of reconstructing this type of neglected child by first helping him to unlearn many of the things he has learned, and endeavor to mold his character with nobler thoughts and higher ideals, is one that calls for considerable tact of the experienced teacher, and a full measure of patience.

The boy must be won over at the very beginning. Otherwise, he is liable to walk or run away from the Home as soon as an opportunity presents itself. We have no high fence around our Home, no bars on our windows, no locks on our doors, and we do not wish to have these. Unless we can influence the boy by moral persuasion, no physical restraint results...

ABOUT FATHER FLANAGAN

From Father Flanagan's Boys' Home Journal, June, 1928, Page 14:

THEY COME FROM NEAR AND FAR TO VISIT HOME

They came from California and from Illinois to visit Father Flanagan's Boys' Home during the month of April.

Of course, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Utah were represented. There were more than 85 visitors during the rainy month.

Each and every one of the guests were shown the grounds by the boys, who acted as overseers.

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.**