

Racial prejudice is a defect of character which creates one of the blackest spots on an individual or a nation's character. It is the result of preconceived judgment based on false information. It is an opinion or judgment formed beforehand without the examination of facts.

- *Father Flanagan*



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Father Edward J. Flanagan
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

Father Flanagan League:
Society of Devotion

Prayer Leaflet

Year Four—January

Father Flanagan's prayer

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....

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

A testimony about Father Flanagan

At the beginning of World War II, American born Japanese, Jim and Margaret Takahashi with their two daughters and three week old son, were evacuated from their home in Southern California and placed in temporary barracks at Santa Anita Race Track. Later, Margaret wrote:

After we were in camp a few weeks, we heard that Father Flanagan of Boys town was hiring workers from camp, so we wrote to him and told him of Jimmie's qualifications. He wrote back immediately and told us to come as soon as possible...We arrived in Boys Town at night, and Father Flanagan met us at the train...He was a very tall, gentle, warm man. When you first met him, you could feel this warmth. I've never felt that from another human being. He was so full of love that it radiated out of him. It was startling.

*May those who long for your help always say,
"God be glorified!"*

*Here I am, afflicted and poor. God, come quickly!
You are my help and deliverer.
Lord, do not delay! Psalm 70*

From Fr. Flanagan's writings

"Racial and Religious Prejudice" speech given October 21, 1938.

Peoples and nations are distraught with petty quarreling, feuds and wars to settle arguments, both racial and national. Then they settle down to see how little was accomplished, and how much harm affected.

We are a nation that prides itself in advantages far superior to all other peoples...With these advantages we should develop an educated citizenship far superior to other nations. We should become leaders in thought—progressive in action, and sympathetic in all our social behaviors.

We have, likewise, in this country an opportunity to become thoroughly and completely broadminded—broadminded in the sense that we can learn to live in peace and harmony with those about us—A social behavior so essential for the happiness of ourselves and our fellow man—a brotherhood spirit...

When I speak of broadmindedness towards my fellow man in matters of race, I mean exactly this. I have respect for the people of that particular race, for their institutions, for their heroes in peace and war who have made up their glorious history; that I glory in the fine ideals of their citizenship, their characteristics, all of which though different entirely from mine, still stand out so gloriously for the exemplification of the members of their race, and spurs them on towards better citizenship.

This country of ours is often referred to as the melting pot of the world. The melting pot of all races and creeds...But what about that monster that despoils and uproots all this effort on the part of our good citizens—tears down that fine fabric of citizenship which is woven through warp and woof of hard working, industrious, good living respectable citizens?

...Racial prejudice is a defect of character which creates one of the blackest spots on an individual or a nation's character. It is the result of preconceived judgment based on false information. It is an opinion or judgment formed beforehand without the

...If we would but seek the truth and facts of everything there would be no more of this preconceived judgment, but truth comes to us tinged and colored with our prejudices and our preconceptions, which are as old as ourselves. It comes to us as the image of a rod comes to us through water, bent and distorted...If we would but open our hearts and minds and accept the truth—the real truth not distorted and disfigured, we would live in harmony with the world and our fellow man, and we would teach our children to do likewise.

Most prejudice, whether racial or religious, is the result of early training in the child and usually takes place before that child has attained his tenth year of age....such a child grows up and not knowing the reason why, is prejudiced against a certain race, certain creed because of that early impression...

Let us take these innocent young minds entrusted to our care and mold them into minds filled with beauty and love, beauty of the things we see in our every day lives, love of our neighbor and our fellow man. Let love rule every home and heart and crush the seed of prejudice. As mothers and fathers you can do this and the future generation will thank you, and the world will be a more beautiful, better, more peaceful place to live in...

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.