

I have noted from my rather long years of working with children that the great difficulty is in keeping up the interest of the child....I look upon the children who come into the juvenile court, as children whose home life and environment are monotonous and there is nothing attractive in their lives...from many causes—poverty, and uninterested parents, because of an economic problem, or much quarreling in the home, which begot a lack of security for that child...To me, those children are impoverished, lacking the vitamins that beget proper spiritual, physical and mental vitality. They do not fear what the juvenile court has to offer, or the eventual reform school, which certainly couldn't be worse in their estimation than that they have experienced at home.

— Fr. Flanagan



**FOR INFORMATION OR TO REPORT FAVORS GRANTED
CONTACT:**

Father Flanagan League
14057 Flanagan Blvd.
Boys Town, NE 68010

www.fatherflanagan.org

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—January

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.**

*You are our letter, written on our hearts,
known and read by all,
shown to be a letter of Christ
administered by us, written not in ink
but by the Spirit of the living God,
not on tablets of stone
but on tablets that are hearts of flesh.*

2 Corinthians 3.2-3

FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

A letter from Father Flanagan, May 28, 1942

Dear Boys and Girls:

Were all the adults in the United States to understand the beautiful and precious minds and souls that God has endowed you with—there would never be any frustrations or disappointments in our beloved country through the missteps of youth. Unfortunately, all adults do not think alike, so do not understand, and many do not care—and as a result many boys and girls in our day age are denied many advantages, particularly the proper training to fit them for their life's work as a stepping stone for an eternity of happiness.

My heart goes out to such boys and girls who have been disappointed in their plans and ambitions and who have, therefore developed inferiority complexes, which is a very unhealthy condition to have.

I want you to know, dear young Friends, that this is a great country in which to live and be a citizen of. There are opportunities in this country for even the most underprivileged child, that are far in advance of opportunities in other countries for other peoples who are far from being underprivileged. Therefore, there is an underlying principle that should give us hope and inspiration and that is—that if we love the principles on which this country has become great we cannot help but become great with it.

During your adolescent years you will have some difficulties, particularly if you are not exposed to advice from understanding people, but remember that this should not discourage you to the extent of the throwing overboard all those opportunities that will remain for you. You must have ambition to forge ahead—and in that forging ahead, we must not forget our greatest Friend, Almighty God, who is our constant ally, our constant protector Who never tires of our friendship. It is only we that neglect him through lack of prayer that does that tiring. Keep close to Him, my dear Boys and Girls and you will become successful citizens. This nation is very sick, indeed, and you and I and every other citizen must help to make it well. It is sick because its citizens have lost their patriotism, their love for Almighty God and their fellowmen. God bless you!

Sincerely,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. E.J. Flanagan

ABOUT FATHER FLANAGAN

What impressed me during my brief time with him was his gentleness. I could not imagine how a person as gentle as he was could have so much influence with boys who were considered somewhat troublesome.

One of the things I remember from our conversation was when I told him that I had heard in Omaha that he was making things too good for the boys. He responded, "If I do not give them an experience of the better things in life, they will never know of them."

I also remember the warm relationship he had with the boys we encountered on our brief walk.

Fr. James Brown, OAR

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.**