

Each week sees some boy or boys leave and others enter. It reminds me, at times, of a great railroad station where every corner of the world meets, tarries between trains and then moves on. My station, however, is different for here the young travelers may tarry as long as is needed without cost to them, and then when their train is announced their fare is paid to a happier destination—a foster home and a real mother and dad.

— *Father Flanagan*



FOR INFORMATION

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Donations

**We are a federally recognized 501c3 nonprofit
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religious purposes.
Donations may be made out
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Father Edward J. Flanagan
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

*Father Flanagan League:
Society of Devotion*

Prayer Leaflet

Year Eight—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!

Those who err in spirit
shall acquire understanding,
And those who find fault
shall receive instruction.

Isaiah 29.24

FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

Father Flanagan's response to criticism from Mr. Erick W. Bergmann of Michigan about a former boy's letter with regard to "good"-(dead)-Germans, March 23, 1946.

Dear Sir:

I am sure that you are a very honest man and you analyze situations just as well as anybody else. I am also sure that in your honest approach to these analyzations you will recognize that boys who have gone forth into battle fighting the enemy write letters that are sometimes tinged with emotions against the enemy, and those fighting heroes of ours and yours, too, are not too careful about the manner in which they put words on paper.

I saw that letter, Mr. Bergmann, from one of my former boys. I don't like that word—"good" - (dead)- Germans. I don't like that word because my whole life has been dedicated in trying to eliminate racial and religious bigotry in whatever shape or form it may come. As a matter of fact, I take no back seat to any of the fine people in this country and elsewhere in upholding the good name of good Germans—the kind of Germans that you claim you belong to, the kind of Germans who have fought, even though weakly, against the persecution of Nazism.

I have studied in Germany in the universities and have spent almost four years among them. I think I know them very well. Some of my classmates have died the death of heroes and I have sent money, as soon as the war was over, through the Vatican source and I helped in a small way to support the cause of the "good Germans". I think your letter is entirely too sharp, Mr. Bergmann, to beget good will for a cause that needs much good will. People like you who are much upset about this whole war are not helping the cause along by your sharp criticisms of people that you do not know and that you do not realize have perhaps sacrificed much of their whole substance to help that same cause along. I think your letter is a very unfortunate one, Mr. Bergmann, and I am sure that had you held it for twenty-four hours, you would not have sent it to me.

No need for me to discuss any further part of your letter which is only an accumulation of false accusations.

Regretfully yours,
Rt. Rev. Msgr. E. J. Flanagan

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

Time was when children with their parents were subjected to a state of slavery that was pitiful and that cried out to Heaven for vengeance against the cruelty of the oppressor. In the progress of time, Christian civilization, through education, has done away with all this, and perhaps at no time in the history of the world, does the human race in Christian and civilized lands enjoy such freedom and independence as it does today.

But some children are denied this natural blessing today and are either unconscious of this new phase of child slavery, or are unable to liberate themselves from its grasp. I speak here of the mercenary type of parents who see in their children, mere instruments to make money for them, and deny them the natural comforts to which they are entitled...

What can we expect of such poor children who are victims of this new type of slavery? Is there any wonder that many of them are sent to reform schools? They have no home training; they are not taught anything in the home that would benefit them. They are looked upon as mere chattels, and they know it. I wonder if it be possible in this day and age of much legislations to establish a law which will protect children from such slavery, and compel parents to awake to their responsibilities of providing for their loved ones...

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.**