
Each citizen works part of the day for the maintenance and upkeep of the Home. I believe in the dignity of labor, and I know of no better way to ingrain it in men than to teach it to them while they are boys. - *Father Flanagan*



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DONATIONS

**We are a federally recognized
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For religious purposes.
Donations may be made out
to FFLSD and sent
to the address above.**

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Father Edward J. Flanagan
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

Father Flanagan League:
Society of Devotion

Prayer Leaflet

Year One—June

From Fr. Flanagan's Prayer, August 24, 1946:

O God, Heavenly Father of the human race, in adoration and thanksgiving we lift our hearts to You, the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

We thank You for these boys and girls. We ask Your blessing upon them, Dear Lord...

You have made man like unto Yourself, with a soul that is precious in Your sight, a soul whose highest privilege is to love and serve You in this world and to be with You in the next. You have entrusted the soul of the child to parents whose duty it is to train, guide and protect the child from the pitfalls of youth.

Dear Lord, sin, sorrow and suffering have come into the world, and into the ranks of youth, because You have been neglected and Your Commandments transgressed. Improper teaching and neglect have brought tragedy in our midst.

We lift our hearts to You, O Lord, from Whom our help comes. We implore You to teach our young people the lessons of love. Teach them, we pray, to respect the authority vested by You in their parents and superiors who are Your divinely-constituted guardians over them. Give them the strength to become spiritual giants that, casting off the dead weights of sin and vanity, they may run the good race and attain the prize of Heaven.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

The Lord hears my prayer!

FROM FR. FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS
A LETTER WRITTEN TO MRS. HARLEY J. EARL

(Part III of IV of letter written July 15, 1939.)

...The physical training of our boys is by no means neglected. Under the leadership of a fine physical instructor, who has older boys as his assistants, our boys play all the games in season—baseball, football, basketball, swimming, tennis, badminton, ping-pong, as well as marbles, top-spinning, hiking and such other games as may attract them. Our football team has not been defeated in four years. I like this well rounded program of athletics, not only for the physical vigor which it develops, but more for the lessons in character which it imparts.

There is another feature of my work which I consider very important. Every boy at Boys Town, from the youngest to the oldest, has a specific duty to perform each day. Each citizen works part of the day for the maintenance and upkeep of the Home. I believe in the dignity of labor, and I know of no better way to ingrain it in men than to teach it to them while they are boys. Too many people today, like the “guests” in my Workingmen’s Hotel, seem to feel that the world owes them a living. I think that work is necessary to happiness and a well ordered life, and that it is just as necessary to that end, as it is to economic success.

Our Home is supported entirely now, as it has always been, by voluntary contributions from the public. We receive no support from any organized agency, church, county, state, or community chest. Of course, this plan of support has its drawbacks. Many times, in fact, at all times, we have been hampered in our progress, because I could not jeopardize the future by incurring a debt, even though I saw additions and improvements as vitally necessary. It costs about 50 cents a day or \$180.00 a year to support a boy here and if we take into consideration the boy’s proportionate share of the overhead, about \$250.00 a year.

The demands upon the Home have always exceeded what we could supply. Of course, we help ourselves by supplying all our vegetables, fruit, milk, butter, meat from our farm and garden, as well as giving the boys working in these department a most useful and practical experience.

I think that the great future of my Home must lie in the development of a high grade trade school under competent instructors. I should like to have a wide enough range of facilities to enable every one of our boys to learn to do some work with his hands, and learn to do it thoroughly and well. We all know that the present cycle of political thought is developing the very spirit of dependence upon others which I found in the men who came to me in my early days. I think the fault lies, in a great measure, with our educational system.

Our youth are not being trained to do things. They are being taught a great deal of theory, and that is all very well, but alas, they can do nothing with their hands. No wonder, when a great national catastrophe strikes our people, as at the present time, that they are helpless in the face of it. Their well filled minds produce only ideas—ideas often so impracticable that if put into effect, they might create just as much bungling and bring about as much despair as the present experiments are doing and have been doing in trying to solve our economic problems.

(See Year One July for the Conclusion, Part IV of Letter.)

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.**