

The higher the ideal the more work is required to accomplish it. Do not expect to become a great success in life if you are not willing to work for it. —*Father Flanagan*



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**DONATIONS**

**We are a federally recognized  
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For religious purposes.  
Donations may be made out  
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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 Two — June*

*Father Flanagan's prayer :*

“Dear Lord, You have built Boys Town on the spirit of Faith—Faith in You Our God, and Faith in our fellow man as represented by the homeless and helpless, unloved and unwanted boys. This Faith as brought hope and the sunshine of love into the charred hearts and minds of these dear little ones, for they have basked within the sunshine of that love whose rays have penetrated the hidden and secret departments of their starved little hearts, revived and restored their functions.

...Bless, Dear Lord, the hundreds of Boys Town boys in the armed forces serving their country's cause of freedom on the battlefields and oceans of the world. Bless also all of our nation's boys and the boys of our allies, that with Your spiritual gifts they may fight valiantly and heroically for that cause so dear to Your Sacred heart, that cause of freedom that recognizes man with all the dignity and nobility with which You have endowed him and destined him for a place in Your eternal Kingdom...

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.

## From Fr. Flanagan's writings

*Boys Town Times, November 8, 1940, "Father Flanagan Says"*

There should be a close relation between father and son. Strangely, sometimes this close association does not exist. Both the father and the son are losers in such cases.

I recall a story of a father who was a busy man. He provided his son with everything in life that money could buy. He was a busy man, too busy to watch his son win honors as he went through school.

This boy loved his father but there was something missing. The father failed to give the lad the attention he deserved. Throughout his high school days the boy was a sprinter on his high school team, but the father never saw the lad run a race. Of course, the father inquired as to how he made out after each race but that was as far as it went.

When the lad entered college, he proved to be one of the finest sprinters in his section of the country. One night after a big race the boy returned home, and he was indeed surprised, elated, and happy when greeted by his father who patted him on the back and congratulated him on the fine race he had run that afternoon. The boy was even more surprised to learn that his father had actually witnessed him win the race.

The fact remains—the father found his son that day at this track meet. The father at this time had no special interest in track meets but it proved to the boy that his father had an interest in him as exemplified by his attendance at the meet.

This spirit of interest developed between father and son a great bond of friendship, love, devotion, and last but not least, the pair became real buddies. The father became interested in the activities of his son and his interest was a source of encouragement for the boy to strive for higher honors in the classroom, on the athletic field and later in life.

Now you fathers take an inventory of the interest you have

in your boy. Are you a pal to your son or are you just one of those dads who pay the bills and take no interest in your boy's activities?

Find out what your boy is doing in school and after school. Drop over to school and take an active part in these activities as a spectator. Your boy will like it. Work together with your boy. Play with him after school, on Saturdays and Sundays. Be a real pal; your son will love it. You will be an inspiration to him in climbing life's ladder of success.

Every father has a great responsibility in raising his son. In his hands rest to a large extent what course in life the boy will follow. If fathers everywhere would assume their real role in life and be real pals with their boys—know what the boys are doing, direct them in their leisure time—I am certain juvenile problems would be greatly reduced.

## FATHER FLANAGAN PRAYER

**G**od 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.**