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- *Father Flanagan*



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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 One—May

From Fr. Flanagan's Prayer, March 27, 1943:

Dear Lord, Boys Town has been built on the Gift of Faith—faith in You our God, and faith in our fellowman as represented by homeless boys. This Gift of Faith has brought hope and the sunshine of love into their once discouraged hearts and minds. Those rays of hope and love, based on this Gift of Faith, penetrated the most hidden and secret places of the starved hearts and souls of these children, restoring to them the normal functions which You, their Creator had intended. Through Your special solicitude and tender affection, You have developed these boys into noble and Christian young men. You have enriched them to become good and useful citizens in a world that is very sick through neglect of You. With fine, sterling and Christian characters, these young men so conduct themselves that they accomplish much good for society and for You.

Dear Lord, bless this Home that Boys Town may continue to administer its sacred service of bringing hope and love to the neglected and unloved little ones of the nation. Elevate and strengthen the spirit of Boys Town... Make us more worthy, Dear Lord, and more responsive to Your Grace that the work we do in Your Name and under the Special patronage of Your Immaculate Mother may be more and more acceptable to You and pleasing to Mary, our Patroness and Protectress.

All this, Dear Lord, we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen!

*The Lord is my strength, and I praise him;
He is the savior of my life. Alleluia.*

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

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

...Notwithstanding the causes, I felt that a change from an environment of neglect to one where true principles of character are inculcated, an environment where real interest and love for the child is apparent, would produce good results. I claim that no child really wants to be bad. I have proved this statement by over four thousand cases during the past twenty-two years, and I am happy to state that to my knowledge, not one of my former boys has ended up in a jail or penitentiary, and I assure you that not any of them were sprouting wings when they came to my home.

...We have no corporal punishment at boys Town, but we have penalties which I consider more effective in producing constructive results. An offender may be deprived of privileges, sentenced to extra duty during his free time, and perhaps the most effective type of punishment is to have the boy stand with his back to the screen during a motion picture show, or stand with his back to the wall in full view of the mirth and pleasure of the swimming period. Perhaps these penalties may seem severe, but when the boys have been informed of our few simple rules, and the necessity of keeping them, rules destined to maintain discipline and develop good character, and he deliberately choose to offend against them, I feel that it is high time to use the above mentioned types of discipline.

...Boys Town has fourteen sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis, who live in a convent building on the grounds. Their work has to do with the housekeeping in the town, laundry, mending, over-seeing the cleaning and dusting, and keeping it in the same condition in which a good mother keeps her home. The sisters also have charge of the infirmary, acting as nurses for the dentists and doctors who come regularly to look after the health of our boys. They give a mother's care to our motherless boys.

...Many of our High School graduates go on for higher educa-tions when sponsors are available, and some of them have gone out into the world as lawyers, musicians, priests, and ministers.

We have boys at three different universities studying law, medicine and engineering. There are many who are disappointed because such an opportunity could not be afforded them.

Music has always had part in the cultural training of our boys. For many years we have maintained a band and a fine choir, and many of our form boys are in bands and orchestras through-out the country...

Our Home is governed by an interdenominational board of trustees, made up of Catholics, Protestants and Jews. It has been so governed ever since its inception in 1917. We admit boys of all classes, creeds, and nationalities, and there is no color line drawn in Boys Town. Each religious group lives up to its own faith, and all receive religious instruction....

I consider religious instruction necessary to the foundation of a good character...A well rounded character is one who has reli-gious as well as human motives with which to build a satisfactory life.

(For Part III, see Prayer Leaflet Year One—June)

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.**