

Let your home and fireside furnish the proper nursery for your loved ones modeled after the first really Christian Family home at Nazareth. Let social quackery spend itself and be spent in its futile attempt, but you, lay the solid foundation in the hearts and minds of your children, where Christian principles will re-act as a health-dispensing balm through the world of sin, suffering and disappointment, and the seed that has been planted will grow forth into a flourishing tree dispersing its blessed fruit to the tired and weary and footsore and disappointed souls.

-Father Flanagan

(From his talk given on KOIL radio, January 13, 1929)



**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 Two —May 10

From the Boys Town Journal, Father Flanagan's prayer to Mary Our Mother:

“Here in Boys Town, you boys have in your daily program of prayers that beautiful consecration to Mary Immaculate:

My Queen, my Mother,
I give myself entirely to you
And to show my devotion to you
I consecrate to you this day
My eyes,
My ears,
My mouth,
My heart,
My whole being without reserve.
Wherefore, good Mother
As I am your own,
Keep me and guard me,
As your property and possession.

Blessed be the Mother of God, immaculately conceived! May her prayers, so powerful because of her freedom from sin, gain for us what we so much need, and what through her intercession we will ever ask with confidence—a more perfect pardon for past sin, a greater security against future falls, an increased love for God, and the gift of a happy death.”

“O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!”

*The Spirit of God is upon me; he has anointed me.
He sent me to bring good news to the poor, and
to heal the brokenhearted, alleluia.*

Boys Town Times, May 10, 1946, "Father Flanagan Says"

May is the month set aside for the adoration of the mother of our Lord. It also is the month of Mother's Day. It is a month filled with the perfume of sweet memories which only motherhood can inspire and perpetuate....A child needs both its mother and father...

Every mother is, as every mother ought to be, the inspiration of her children. She is the one to whom they come with their troubles. She is the one whose smile of encouragement gives them new heart when a word of confidence can mean the difference between success and failure. Many an achievement might have been lost to the world but for some mother's influence.

Michael Papin, who rose from a poor Serbian peasant lad to a position as teacher of mathematical physics in the department of electrical engineering in the school of mines of Columbia College, might have died in obscurity but for his mother. Reading, writing and arithmetic appeared to him like instruments of torture...but his mother convinced him he was wrong. She could neither read nor write, and she told her son that she always felt that she was blind, in spite of the clear vision of her eyes. "My boy," she told him, "if you wish to go out into the world about which you hear so much at the neighborhood gatherings, you must provide yourself with another pair of eyes; the eyes of reading and writing."

...The wisdom which a mother gives her children is particularly invaluable because it is the wisdom of the heart...The little child learns its first prayers at its mother's knees. She it is who watches over the child's moral, religious and physical development. Her influence on her children is one that is carried throughout life. And it helps to give that life purpose and direction.

William Ross Wallace was author of the statement that "the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world." You may never have heard of William Ross Wallace, but everyone has heard of his immortal words, because they express a truth which has been and will continue to be demonstrated in our experience as long as the name of mother is spoken over the earth.

In the early hours of the morning, Father Flanagan could be found praying in the chapel. He celebrated daily mass and invited others to pray the liturgy of the hours with him throughout the day. He prayed the rosary each evening in the chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Boys Town. Many of his boys and his staff often joined him.

Prayer was essential and a primary source of development not only for himself but for his staff and his boys. "Every boy must pray," he said, "how he prays is up to him."

From the beginning, Father welcomed boys of all creeds and never imposed his religion upon them. Boys were to continue in the faith of their origins. If they had no religious affiliation, they could attend both Protestant and Catholic services for a time until they were ready to choose one. Jewish boys went to the synagogue for worship. —*S. Nelsen*

FATHER FLANAGAN PRAYER

God of mercy, love and compassion, we are grateful that You gave Your servant, 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 raise Father Flanagan to sainthood, and 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.**