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We must regard the individual, whether it be child or adult, as one of God's children, endowed with an immortal soul, a soul precious in the sight of God, redeemed through the Sacred Blood of the Savior.

— Fr. Flanagan



**FOR INFORMATION OR TO REPORT FAVORS  
GRANTED  
CONTACT:**

Father Flanagan League  
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Boys Town, NE 68010

**[www.fatherflanagan.org](http://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.**

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**Father Steven E. Boes, Executive Director**



**Father Edward J. Flanagan**  
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

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*Father Flanagan League:  
Society of Devotion*

Prayer Leaflet

Year Seven—May

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*Father Flanagan's Prayer*

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.**

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*Because of your kindness and your truth,  
you have made great above all things  
your name and your promise.  
When I called, you answered me:  
You built up strength within me.*

(Psalm 138)

## FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

*May 6, 1928, WOW radio address (Part II)*

I wish I could take all of these worthy cases and help them on the road towards better citizenship by care, training and education. What a pity if they are allowed to drift aimlessly without the necessary training in principles that would insure them as good and worthy citizens! And they are drifting, thousands upon thousands of them, and year in and year out these many thousands are pouring into the heart of society—poison of hate, the poison of crime, the poison of injustice, the poison of false teachings; and society is weakened and staggering from the effects of that poison. It is trying to counteract it, just like a patient suffering from a dangerous disease, who puts himself in the hands of a good doctor. Sometimes the malady may have gone too far, and the greatest medical skill could not help that patient. Society can save itself still, if it will apply remedies that are safe and sane, remedies that will insure and be a protection against its breaking down.

What are these remedies? If we regard life merely in the light of humanitarian usefulness, our efforts may be successful for a time, but will only attain a temporal reward. There must be something more lasting, something more precious, something that transcends the apse of time, and therefore the remedy must have a spiritual aim. We are not dealing with human lives as we barter with the lives of mere animals. And it is in failing to make this distinction, that oft-times false and misleading quack remedies are being constantly applied to cure humanity's ills. We must regard the individual, whether it be child or adult, as one of God's children, endowed with an immortal soul, a soul precious in the sight of God, redeemed through the Sacred Blood of the Savior.

Just as we treasure our own souls and their eternal welfare, so shall we treasure the souls of our neighbor, who is all mankind, whether white or black, yellow or brown, whether friend or enemy. And particularly should that interest in the welfare of a neglected child be greater, because of his less fortunate condition, and the obstacles such a child will have to encounter to reach the end that you and I are destined and striving to reach. Hence the Commandment of God which states, "Love your neighbor as yourself," should have a deep significance for us, for in helping our neighbor we will be helping ourselves as well, by doing god's will.

The spirit of selfishness, the spirit of cold indifference to the unfortunate and needy should be cast away from the heart of society as unworthy of those who have been redeemed by the Precious Blood of a self-sacrificing

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Savior out of love for souls. We should see beneath the ragged and neglected body of our little street and alley urchin, a precious soul that is worth saving. We cannot afford to be selfish. We cannot afford to be indifferent. A greater spirit of brotherly love for our less fortunate little ones, and a desire to help their condition will result from our spiritual motives.

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*From Father Flanagan WOW address to the Children:*

"I just want to say a special little word to you. Your welfare means more to me than anything else in the world, and why? Because your welfare, spiritual and temporal, means not only your own personal happiness, but a blessing and a boon to society. I want you to keep up the good work, and part of that good work is to work hard always, study, play, and observe all your duties to your parents and superiors. Look to your parents as your best friends on earth, and guided by their advice and counsel, you will not go astray. And I want you to think of the boys and myself, often, and here is where I want you to think of us—in your prayers, that God will direct us always to do his Holy Will. We all hope, dear children, to be back on the air again in the fall, and until then, we shall pray for you, and you pray for us."

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## 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.**