

From The Boys Town Home Journal, April, 1938, "Father's Page"

In the 650 applications for admission we were forced to refuse last year were boys well-worthy of the attention and care we could have given them. All boys are worthy of this care, entitled to it. Some of them, coming from the juvenile courts, were sorely in need of understanding and consideration, someone to work with them and given them a straighter picture of life as it should be lived.

What is to become of these boys? How will they end up? Where will they go? These are questions which all of us will someday be called upon to answer.

Boys Town has grown. But its problems have grown, also. My sincere hope—and I know that it must be yours, too, my friends—is that someday, in the very near future, Boys Town WILL be large enough to care for all those Homeless boys who come to its doors seeking admission, seeking a new hope, seeking in a small measure the opportunity which all American boys should have as their heritage. —*Father Flanagan*



**FOR INFORMATION
CONTACT:**

Father Flanagan League
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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 Eight—May

Father Flanagan's Prayer :

Bring about, Dear Lord, a spiritual union of all the nations of the world built on the understanding that we are all Your children and You are our Heavenly and Eternal Father.

Teach us all the great dignity of our state in life as children of You, brothers of Your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, nurtured and strengthened by Your Holy Spirit....

All this we ask, and beg of You, in Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen!

*You are my shelter;
from distress you keep me;
With safety you ring me round.*

*I will instruct you and
show you the way you should walk;
Give you counsel and watch over you.*

Psalm 32, v. 7-8

FROM FATHER FLANAGAN

Father Flanagan's letter responding to Mr. Hugh P. Waterford, "Carawatha", Premier, New South Wales, Australia, on July 22, 1936.

My dear Mr. Waterford:

I want to thank you sincerely for your kind letter of May 8th, with the additional enclosures of Merino wool. Yes, we received the other samples safely also. I acknowledged them weeks ago and also sent you some of our flower seed. I thought you might like to see if they would grow in your climate. We planted the wheat seed you sent us—but the drought here didn't permit it to do any good. It came up but soon dried out with the rest of our grain.

I suppose you have read in your papers of the terrible drought the U.S. is experiencing this year? It is the worst in history. It is extremely hard on the farmers for they have no pastures to turn their cows in—no water in many instances and they have to ship their cattle to distant ranches for pasturage. It sometimes happens they don't get their cattle back or that they come home in a more starved condition than when they were sent away. Soil erosion is making our agricultural problem a serious one...Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska are the States worst off. They call these States the "Dust Bowl" for we have such terrible dust storms. We had one the other day so bad that we couldn't see three feet ahead of us. It leaves just banks of red dust afterwards, ruining gardens, and all living vegetation. We have much to be thankful for—for we still have enough water in our wells for men and cattle...

I shall try now to answer your questions, altho I will have to turn and write on the opposite side of the page. You won't mind it I guess.

The boys play tennis here only in the summer months—say from May to September. But this summer the heat is so intense that they are not using the courts so very much. They enjoy swimming more. From June 25th till now the temperature has ranged from 104 to 115 degrees...

Baseball is a game played by the boys in the Spring and Summer. Football is played in early Spring if the ground is not too soft, and again in September and October until the snow falls. We had a very sever winter with a number of snow blizzards which heaped the snow in places over ten feet deep. And now we are having an equally severe summer. We will have no corn or potato crop here at Boys Town. The boys are very sorry they will have no potatoes for you know they form one of principal food products, after meat and bread. We haven't had any on the table since last March and I suppose the prices will soar so high that I can't buy enough for the winter for the boys.

You know it takes almost two bushel for a meal.

So you have a radio too. Our boys love to listen to the radio when cool weather is here. But if some special program is broadcast they'll sacrifice the outdoor air to sit inside and listen. For instance the Lewis-Schmelling boxing bout! They would have considered it the worst punishment if they had been denied it.

Yes, our cows as a rule do milk well in the winter. They are stabled and stall fed during the winter months but as soon as Spring comes they are turned out to pasture and if the weather is fair they are outdoors during the night. They are brought to the barn though in the evening and morning for milking. We are contemplating erecting a new barn if circumstances will permit and move the present barn over on the South farm—a farm we joined to ours a couple of years ago, and keep cattle over there too.

I want to thank you for your fine, interesting letter—also for the additional stamps you sent. The boys are always eager to get the new issues from Australia. Thanks very much! I hope you are well and enjoying a nice, mild winter—or are you having Spring by now?

Sincerely yours, Father Flanagan's Boys' Home, Rev. E. J. Flanagan

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.**