
Youth who have not been loved and protected are not likely to love others and protect the rights of others.

—Fr. Flanagan



**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
Used with permission of Boys Town Hall of History
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—October

Excerpts from Father Flanagan's prayers

O Heavenly Father, we acknowledge with grateful hearts Your numerous graces and blessings bestowed upon us, as individuals and as a nation that is especially favored by You.

We are quite conscious, Dear Lord, of our unworthiness and inability to accomplish any good of ourselves, and hence recognize that all good comes through You, Our Lord and Master.

Teach us, Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, a deep sense of our duties and responsibilities not only towards our own children but all children who come within our reach of influence... Teach us, Dear Lord, to be unselfish, with our time and our talent...to set a good example by that unselfishness, and by our way of life, that we may set forth a pattern to the young...

Dear Lord, our children are so precious, so needed to be trained and developed into a citizenry that will be wholesome and constructive that all their thoughts, words and actions may be directed towards You and mutual service to each other, which will insure a safe and sane citizenry strong enough to protect it against the powers of evil. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen!

*Come to him, a living stone, rejected by
human beings but chosen and precious
in the sight of God*

1 Peter 2.4

From Fr. Flanagan's writings

(A quotation from a letter to Reverend Michael O'Flanagan, Dublin County, Ireland, April 26, 1942:)

“You also may not know that I was the little shepherd boy who took care of the cattle and the sheep. That seemed to be my job as I was the delicate member of the family and good for nothing else, and with probably a poorer brain than most of the other members of the family.

I was sent away to school to study for the Priesthood, as I stated above, I wasn't much good for anything else; so my job as a shepherd boy fitted in very nicely in preparation for my life's work afterward. Three times a day would I travel over those immense lands of Leabeg. You have no idea what it was like with dangerous bogs on the north and south as I would travel through those vast fields, mostly without shoes, —and I was a happy Irish lad, saying my rosary as I went along, and other times, as I grew a little older, reading one of Dickens' novels.

As I look back over that life now that was full of beauty and loveliness, and as I contemplate those scenes that no artist with either brush or pen could paint—I can see the environment in which my character was being developed, and how grateful to God I should be when I compare that wholesome environment with the records of thousands of boys here, something like 4500 of them, who have gone through Boys Town during the last twenty-five years. Of course, if I had the background of some of these boys, I would want to be a Dillinger or a Capone, or some of the outstanding criminals who have been making possibly a fifteen billion dollar crime bill in this country each year.”

(Part I of II) Excerpt from an address November 1, 1939, at the B'nai B'rith Forum of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:

We, who love our boys and girls, and who look to the future with anxious eyes, can have no consideration more important than these youngsters who are our destiny.

There is much in our time to make us deeply concerned about them. The news from abroad would seem to indicate that civilization there is in the vortex...both Communism and Nazism have organizations functioning in this country, and both have already achieved too much success in the winning of our youth...

On another front, all thinking men and women must be alarmed at the steadily dropping age for serious crime, and the large number of our children who find their ways to our courts every year. Today, such serious offenses as robbery, arson... and even murder are most frequently charged against young people under 21...Two hundred thousand juvenile delinquents are sentenced every year...we can see nothing reflected but our own neglect. The penalty of that neglect is costly... No man or woman, secure in the knowledge of personal self-righteousness, can say Crime does not touch me.

(See Year One-October, for Part II (Conclusion) of this letter.)

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.**