
May the Immaculate Mother of God continue to plead with Her Divine Son, direct our actions and purify our intentions that this diocese (Omaha) under your (newly appointed Bishop Ryan) able administration shall grow rich in souls for the Kingdom of heaven.

— Fr. Flanagan



**FOR INFORMATION
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Donations

**We are a federally recognized 501 c3 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 Seven—October

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.**

*Father, keep before us
the wisdom and love
you have revealed in your Son.
Help us to be like him
in word and deed.
for he lives and reigns forever.*

Entrance Antiphon, October 12, 2010

FATHER FLANAGAN'S WRITINGS

Sermon delivered on the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese of Omaha, December 8, 1935, Part II

Few dioceses in this country have been so well developed at their inception as Omaha when the Holy Father saw fit to erect it as a Diocese on October 2nd, 1885, and appointed Bishop O'Connor as its first Bishop.

In 1887, two years after the establishment of the Omaha diocese, Rome saw fit to establish two new dioceses out of the extensive territory now under the jurisdiction of Bishop O'Connor. The whole state of Wyoming was taken away when the new diocese of Cheyenne was erected. All the territory of Nebraska south of the Platte River was formed into another diocese with the Episcopal See established at Lincoln, Nebraska. Thus the diocese of Omaha was limited in territory to that part of Nebraska north of the Platte.

Bishop O'Connor died May 27, 1890, after spending 14 years as Vicar Apostolic of Nebraska and Bishop of Omaha...His memory will ever be kept green...He was one of the great builders of the West.

The second Bishop of Omaha was the Right Reverend Richard Scannell who was transferred from the diocese of Concordia to Omaha in 1891, and installed in St. Philomena's Cathedral April 12th of that year.

When Bishop Scannell came to Omaha, he found a well organized diocese with 55 secular Priests, 21 Priests of religious orders, 53 parishes, three hospitals, one orphanage, and a Catholic population of 53,640...During Bishop Scannell's administration the diocese of Omaha was again divided, and this in 1912, cutting off the Western part. The new Episcopal See was established in Kearney, but later transferred to Grand Island when extra counties were added to the new diocese...Bishop Scannell died January 8, 1916...He left as his heritage to the next Bishop a Catholic population of 80,465.

Archbishop Harty of Manila was next appointed as Archbishop-Bishop of the Omaha Diocese, and installed in this unfinished Cathedral amid much scaffolding December 16, 1916.

He was a great believer in making religion more accessible to the people. For this reason he established many new parishes in outlying territories...A born optimist, his kindness and tenderness of heart were often repaid by ingratitude.. As a result he met with much disappointment. He was a man whose great love and solicitude for the orphan and homeless child

knew no bounds. Once each week he would visit these poor children, and seemed most happy when in the midst of an informal group of youngsters who learned to love him as a father and protector. His talks to them whether in the Chapel or on the playground were masterpieces. Here he would pour forth from his great human soul, and gifted tongue, advice and words of encouragement that would make one wish that he, too, could be numbered among the dear little ones so favored by this Patriarchal soul.

Archbishop Harty welcomed St. Columban's Mission Society to the Diocese...he opened his great heart to every worthy cause and enterprise. Failing in health he was forced to abandon the active ministration of the diocese and he moved to a more salubrious climate where he died in 1927.

Editor's Note: Archbishop Harty kept his title as Archbishop from his Manilla appointment even though Omaha was not an Archdiocese at the time of his administration.

At the request of Father Flanagan, Archbishop Harty relieved him of parish duties as a diocesan priest. This gave Father Flanagan the freedom to devote all of his energies to taking care of homeless and orphaned boys, which eventually grew to his establishment of Father Flanagan's Home for Boys, now known as Boys Town.

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.**