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We must never unjustly condemn any person, regardless of race or creed, before our children. When they come to us with questions regarding racial or religious differences, we must exercise great care and thought in answering them. We must use the utmost caution to as not to bias that innocent mind.

*-Father Flanagan*



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**DONATIONS**

**We are a federally recognized  
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For religious purposes.  
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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 Five—September*

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*From Fr. Flanagan's Prayer, August 24, 1946:*

O God, Heavenly Father of the human race, in adoration and thanksgiving we lift our hearts to You, the Giver of every good and perfect gift...

You have made man like unto Yourself, with a soul that is precious in Your sight, a soul whose highest privilege is to love and serve You in this world and to be with You in the next. You have entrusted the soul of the child to parents whose duty it is to train, guide and protect the child from the pitfalls of youth...

We lift our hearts to You, O Lord, from Whom our help comes. We implore You to teach our young people the lessons of love. Teach them, we pray, to respect the authority vested by You in their parents and superiors who are Your divinely-constituted guardians over them. Give them the strength to become spiritual giants that, casting off the dead weights of sin and vanity, they may run the good race and attain the prize of Heaven.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

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*All the ends of the  
earth have seen  
the victory of our God.*

**Psalm 98.3**

*"Why we have racial and religious prejudice" – given before the religious symposium at Omaha, Nebraska, October 21, 1937, by Father Flanagan.*

Just what is prejudice? It is a defect of character which creates one of the blackest spots on an individual or a nation's character. It is the result of preconceived judgment based on false information. It is an opinion formed beforehand without the examination of facts. It is ignorance.

When and where is prejudice born? It is born in the mind of a child, and usually before that child has reached his tenth year of age. It is the result of the thoughtlessness of that child's first teachers. His parents, his brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends, all of whom discussed in the presence of that child their feelings and sentiments regarding people who happened to be of a different race or religion from themselves. On occasions of this kind, as often happens, they occasionally use the most vulgar, most blasphemous language, all of which leaves its lasting imprint on that child's young mind. That child will grow to manhood and not knowing why will be prejudiced against a certain race, a certain creed, because of those early impressions which time could not erase.

The case of a certain young man comes to my mind. I will tell you briefly what he said: "I am the son of a good and noble family. I love my mother and father just as you love your mother and father, and yet, were I not broadminded I would, by all the laws of my teaching, be most prejudiced. The first thing I remember regarding my religious training was that I was a Lutheran and must never let Jews or Catholics influence my life. Neighboring children were held up to me as an example. Whenever they committed any acts which left them open for criticism, childish mistakes, which meant nothing, but which, nevertheless, gave cause for rebuke, it was because they were of a different race. If they harmed or hindered my brothers and sisters and I at play, it was because they were not of our faith and did not like us.

Is it any wonder if I should be prejudiced? Is it any wonder that these seeds were planted in my mind unknowingly by dear parents who merely gave an answer because I expected one? Perhaps they had been prejudiced in the same manner and were simply following the teachings of their parents."

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*Father Flanagan was the first nationally recognized figure of his time to directly confront racial prejudice.*



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## FATHER FLANAGAN PRAYER

**G**od 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 many may be inspired 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.**