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We, as citizens, must necessarily be united by a bond of unity based on the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man. — *Father Flanagan*



**FOR INFORMATION  
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**Donations**

**We are a federally recognized 501c3 nonprofit  
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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**

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***Father Flanagan League:  
Society of Devotion***

*Prayer Leaflet*

*Year Eight—September*

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*Father Flanagan's Prayer : for the Nebraska Legislature, 1943*

Our heavenly Father, we are all here assembled as duly representing the peoples of this great State to enact just laws for the well being and protection of these people.

We are fully conscious of the fact that, You, Dear Lord are the true and Only Just Lawmaker, since from You alone comes all authority and You are indeed the Author of Law.

We are also conscious of the fact that our powers are merely delegated by you, O God, and we thank You most humbly for the privilege and opportunity of serving in this capacity, that we might this help to honor you in all our deliberations..

I ask You, O God, to bless these men in their deliberations—to enable them to understand and analyze the subject matter of proposed legislation as it comes up, lest some unjust or unwise law might be passed that might be injurious to You, Dear Lord, and to Your people.

I also realize the danger of special privileged legislation which through unjust influence might cause great injury to Your people, and I beg You, Dear Lord, to open the minds and hearts of these men that they might see and know Your gracious purpose for peace and prosperity among all the people of this State which can be founded only on justice. Bless, therefore, Dear Lord, each and every member of this august body of men.

Take away any darkness from their minds and hearts that they may understand more clearly Your gracious plan for peace and prosperity. Bless the Governor of this great state that he may rule this great commonwealth of free people wisely and well.

Dear Lord, bless all the people of this state in a most special manner that they may all turn to You the God of justice and rights for all... All this we ask in the Holy Name of Your Dear son, Jesus Christ. Amen

## TRIBUTES TO FATHER FLANAGAN

Father Flanagan, Founder of Boys Town, was lauded in death as he was loved in life, as a priest of God, humanitarian, outstanding citizen, patriot and champion of youth.

“He has left a living monument,” said President Harry S. Truman, “in the countless boys who are today honest men and upright citizens because of his benign influence and abiding faith in the inherent goodness of human natures.”

Bishop Mark K. Carroll, titular leader of the Wichita, Kansas diocese, said that Father Flanagan “really built an empire of charity on the plains of Nebraska. His death removes from the field of social action a champion of society’s most important citizens, our youth. No one will deserve from Almighty God a just reward more than Father Flanagan, because he practiced the most important of all virtues, exquisite charity.”

Said Secretary of War, Kenneth N. Royall: “Father Flanagan has died in the service of his country and in the service of all mankind. His entire life was dedicated to such service, and the world will remember him for it.”

Lt. Col. Roman Nuwer, senior chaplain of United States forces in Austria, stated of Father Flanagan that “His spirit will live on, and, as his spirit spreads, it will bring to the world a peace based on love of neighbor.”

Bishop Charles Buddy of San Diego called Father Flanagan “a zealous priest of vision, courage and conviction. His monument more enduring than bronze, is written in the hearts and impressed deeply on the minds of millions to whom he gave inspiration and a challenge—educating them by word and example in what could actually be accomplished for the homeless lad.”

Bishop Bernard J. Sheil of Chicago, founder and director of the Catholic youth organization, said: “He will be keenly missed by the great and lowly. His work with boys will be his monument. His faith in youth was an inspiration for youth itself, and encouragement for older folk whose work in life brings them the problems of youth. We Americans are profoundly grieved. The prayers of children will be his epitaph.”

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From Memories of Boys Town, Commander Lloyd Bucher, USN, Captain of the Pueblo:

“When I was a young teenager, I hung around my father’s circle of rough characters, all lost children themselves...When entering boys Town I found myself among a varied lot between the ages of ten and seventeen...There were black and white boys, Protestants and Catholics and Jews, and some who had come with no traceable ethnic background or religious faith... the greatest security for Boys Town students was its complete lack of confining fences...”

Boys Town had a wonderful program of activities and entertainment...On one occasion, Gene Tunney, World Heavyweight Boxing champion (1926-28) came to speak to the boys. Such a fighter was their idol...On another occasion a Chinese acrobatic dancing group performed and the boys really admired their skills...Other great entertainers who came to Boys Town during these days were Abbot and Costello, Robert Ripley of ‘Believe it or Not’ fame, and Roddy McDowell, the youngster from England who played in How Green Was My Valley, the Oscar award winning best movie of 1941...

Once primarily an orphanage, Boys Town was now housing many youngsters assigned by the courts. Boys Town was changing. We must remember, too, that these were World War II years and the older teenagers who had experienced homelessness before, now began to wonder how their next home, the military, would receive them.

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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.**