

# Study Guide

Heart of a Servant: The Father Flanagan Story

## ANSWER KEY - Middle School Study Guide

1. Fr. Flanagan was born in village of \_\_\_\_\_ in the country of \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Ballymoe, Ireland**

2. Growing up, what role did “little Eddie” have on the farm that his family worked?

**A shepherd boy that took care of the cattle and sheep.**

3. In what year, and at what age, did Edward immigrate to the United States?

**1904 at age 18**

4. Edward was “smart as a whip.” By the time he was in college, he could speak, read, and write in \_\_\_\_\_ different languages. **5**

5. Unfortunately, Edward’s childhood health issues were a recurring roadblock in his pursuit of the \_\_\_\_\_. **Priesthood**

6. Due to his health issues, Edward had to move from Rome to Innsbruck, Austria, in order to continue his studies in the seminary. After being ordained, where was Fr. Flanagan’s first assignment?

**O’Neill, Nebraska**

7. What did Fr. Flanagan encounter on the streets of Omaha that gave him the idea to work with homeless, neglected boys?

**Homeless men that had no desire to work.**

8. In the year \_\_\_\_\_ they broke ground on a plot of land that eventually

became the village of \_\_\_\_\_. **1921; Boys Town**

9. In 1934, Boys Town achieved a public milestone with the establishment of a

\_\_\_\_\_ on its campus. **Post Office**

10. The prevailing social theory that Fr. Flanagan fought against was \_\_\_\_\_, which is a racist science that taught that there were “bad boys” based on race, color, and religion. **eugenics**

11. Fr. Flanagan wasn’t just trying to teach the boys to do human, day-to-day tasks. His true desire was for them to become \_\_\_\_\_. **Saints**

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12. The story of Boys Town started to make headlines in newspapers and radio stations across the country. One particular story about the mayoral election in Boys Town caught the attention of a Hollywood producer, which led to the making of what in 1938?

**The movie, *Boys Town***

13. Fr. Flanagan fought for social reform, wanting a uniform system across America that was more \_\_\_\_\_ based rather than \_\_\_\_\_ based.

**treatment; punishment**

14. Which U.S. President reached out to Fr. Flanagan to help build post-war peace?

**President Harry Truman**

15. Fr. Flanagan died from health complications while on a trip to Berlin, Germany. Where is his final resting place?

**Boys Town, Nebraska**

## Reflection Questions

1. Fr. Flanagan demonstrated many of our Catholic virtues throughout the documentary. What were some of the ways Fr. Flanagan showed he had the “heart of a servant”?

**Answers will vary.**

2. The prevailing social theory that Fr. Flanagan fought against was “eugenics.” What is eugenics? What did it teach? In contrast, what was Fr. Flanagan’s main belief about ‘bad boys’?

**Answers will vary.**

3. How does the documentary portray the idea of community and family within Boys Town?

**Answers will vary.**

4. What lasting impact did Father Flanagan have on the world, both during his life and after his death?

**Answers will vary.**