

Study Guide

Heart of a Servant: The Father Flanagan Story

Middle School Study Guide

1. Fr. Flanagan was born in village of _____ in the country of _____.
2. Growing up, what role did “little Eddie” have on the farm that his family worked?
3. In what year, and at what age, did Edward immigrate to the United States?
4. Edward was “smart as a whip.” By the time he was in college, he could speak, read, and write in _____ different languages.
5. Unfortunately, Edward’s childhood health issues were a recurring roadblock in his pursuit of the _____.
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?
7. What did Fr. Flanagan encounter on the streets of Omaha that gave him the idea to work with homeless, neglected boys?
8. In the year _____ they broke ground on a plot of land that eventually became the village of _____.

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

_____ on its campus.

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.

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 _____.

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?

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

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

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

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”?

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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’?
3. How does the documentary portray the idea of community and family within Boys Town?
4. What lasting impact did Father Flanagan have on the world, both during his life and after his death?