

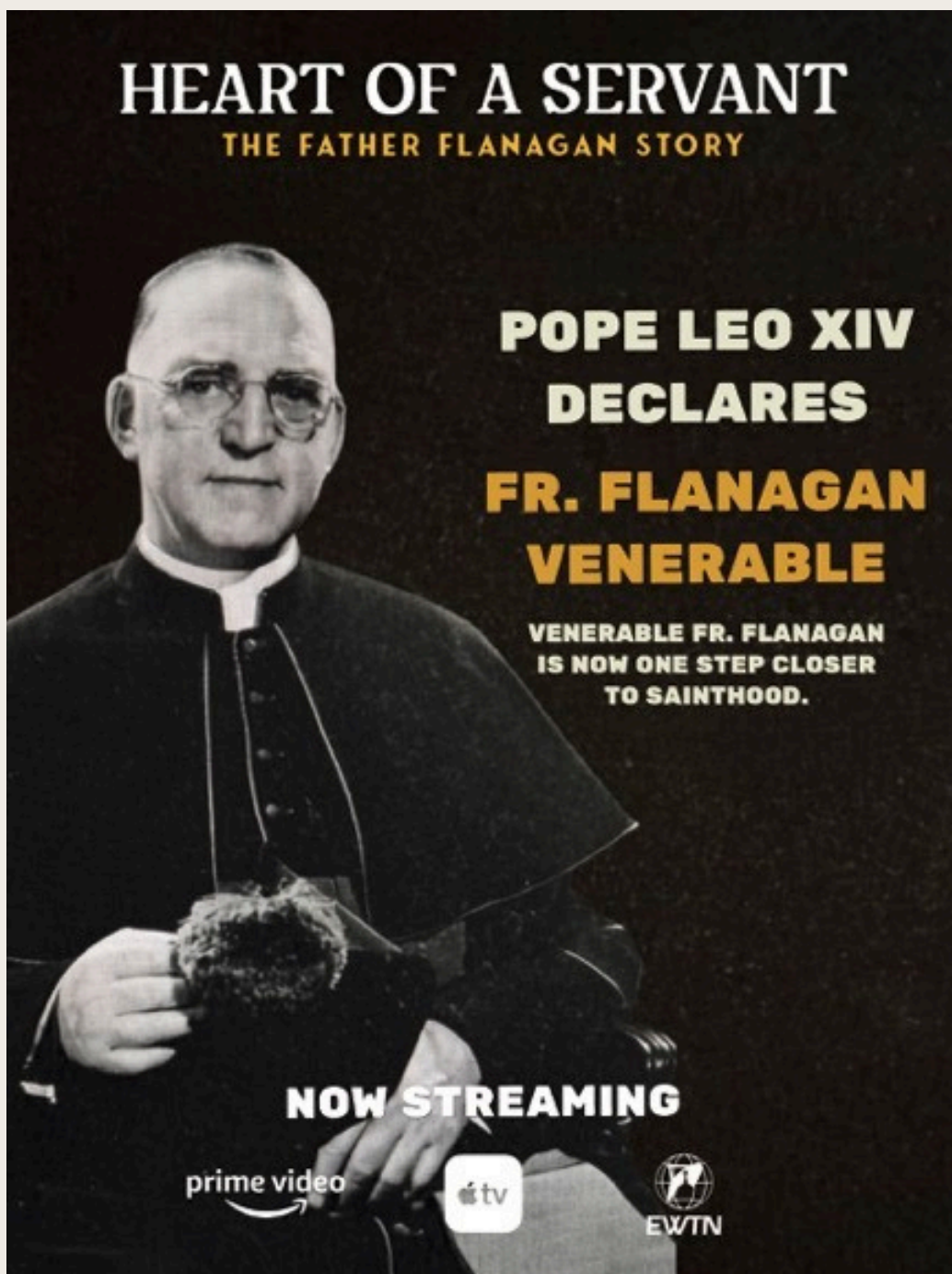


JULY
2026

FATHER FLANAGAN LEAGUE SOCIETY OF DEVOTION



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER



Vision & Mission



Vision

Celebrate the day when the Catholic Church canonizes Monsignor Edward J. Flanagan in recognition of his place with Jesus Christ among the Lord's communion of saints.

Mission

To educate and inform all people of the heroic virtue and sanctity of Father Flanagan's life and his mission as mentor and protector of youth, and spread devotion of his example throughout the world.



Beatification Prayer for Fr. Flanagan

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you for the graces given to Venerable Father Edward J. Flanagan, who dedicated his life to bring your Fatherly love to all children, especially to those You placed in his care. May we emulate the heroic virtue of Venerable Father Flanagan, who trusted in Your Divine Providence, and gain in his intercession with the needs placed before You (state your intentions).

We ask You, Lord God, to raise Venerable Father Flanagan to sainthood in Your Holy Church, that You may be glorified in the work he began and in the work that continues throughout the world in all those who lovingly care for Your precious little ones. We pray in the Name of Your Son Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior.

Amen

Important Dates

- July 13th - Happy Birthday Father Flanagan!
- July 26th 1912 - Fr. Flanagan was ordained in Austria
- Sept. 5th 1912 - Fr. Flanagan was assigned to St. Patrick's in O'Neill, NE

In this edition:

**FFL President's Update,
Welcome AOH National
Convention, featured article
from Tom Dorsel PhD, and more!**

Father Flanagan Trivia

How old would Father Flanagan be this year?

- A. 100
- B. 140
- C. 97
- D. 112



Born July 13, 1886 in County Roscommon, Ireland, Father Flanagan knew the meaning of hard work from a young age. This year would mark his 140th birthday!

Omaha & FFLSD Welcomes The Hibernian National Convention

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) National Convention is the 103rd biennial gathering of the oldest Irish-Catholic fraternal organization in the United States. Members from across North America convene to elect national officers, vote on constitutional updates, attend Masses, celebrate Irish heritage, and plan charitable initiatives. This year, Omaha is honored to host the National Convention July 15th through July 19th and the FFLSD welcomes the AOH to Father Flanagan's tomb and to explore his legacy around Boys Town. One of the highlights given every year is the Father Edward J. Flanagan Human Dignity Award which will be presented to Boys Town at the Saturday evening banquet! Congratulations to Boys Town.



Testimonies of Graces Received

When you pray and are specifically asking Father Flanagan's intercession for healing or other physical or mental need, and the situation improves, or new strength is found to live with the ongoing difficulties/challenges, that is a grace received. In the canonization process, testimonies of graces received are very important. When you share your grace received, it builds up the faith of all.



**LET US KNOW OF ANY GRACES
RECEIVED FROM YOUR PRAYERS
ASKING FOR THE INTERCESSION OF
FATHER FLANAGAN BY CONTACTING
US AT:
TESTIMONY@FATHERFLANAGAN.ORG
OR
CONTACTUS@FATHERFLANAGAN.ORG**

TELLING FATHER FLANAGAN'S STORY

President's Update by Ed Morse

Stories are the primary tools by which we transmit truth across generations. Stories capture the imagination of our children, showing them tensions between good and evil, right and wrong, kindness and cruelty, and victory and defeat. In the law school where I teach, we primarily use cases – stories about human problems and their resolution – to aid our inquiry into the meaning and content of law. Our Lord used parables to teach his disciples – stories preserved in the gospels that are still teaching us today.

Each of us is creating a story to share. It is our own story, unlike any other. And that story is developing until our last day. For most of us, that story is known only to those who are close to us. Remnants are preserved through oral history and then known only to God and the Saints in heaven. We don't really know how our story will affect others, but we hope it will be mostly for good. Stories about Father Flanagan have drawn us into fellowship through the Father Flanagan League. Those stories resonate differently with each of us. Those who know the isolation and loneliness of orphanhood or abandonment will feel a deep connection to his compassionate care for vulnerable youth. Those who struggle with illness or infirmity will feel connected to his perseverance through his own physical infirmities. Those who have felt the sting of discrimination will feel his courage to stand by others and stand up for what is right.

We shared Father Flanagan's story to the Dicastery for the Causes of the Saints, which examined all the evidence and concluded that he had heroic virtue befitting a true follower of our Lord. His title of venerability reflects a judgment of trustworthiness from a trustworthy source.

This July, we will reach a new audience in Ireland, the land of Father Flanagan's birth, through broadcasting on RTE, their public television network. The League made a significant investment to shorten the feature-length documentary to fit a 55-minute segment. (Samuel Clemens was right when he told his editor, "If you would have given me more time, I could have written a shorter book.") But we believe this shorter message still packs the same power to inspire viewers and lead them to Christ.

The League's mission is ultimately rooted in sharing the light of the gospel with the world. We are pleased that more than five million souls in Ireland will get the opportunity to hear the story of their native son and his journey to follow our Lord closely and faithfully. Thanks to all who helped make this possible, including our great partners at Spirit Juice Studios.

Please continue to pray and to share your prayer intentions and special graces with us. Father Flanagan, pray for us, and especially for those in your native land, where hope triumphed through the birth of a little boy who became a great force for good!

**In His Service,
Ed Morse**



BELIEVING: **Even When the Odds Seem Against Us**

Written by Tom Dorsel, Ph.D.

“What though the odds be great or small,” the famous line in the Notre Dame Fight Song, might also be applied to our Catholic beliefs. That is, we believe what Jesus revealed to us, no matter what the odds makers might say.

“I do believe, help my unbelief,” (Mark 9:24) cried the desperate father begging Jesus to heal his dying son. We want to believe, we do believe; but sometimes unbelief still lingers.

Canonization

One occasion where our beliefs might be challenged is in praying for the intercession of one of those designated by the Church as Venerable, the stage before being presented for beatification and canonization. When we pray for such a cause, do we really believe the successful intercession could occur? Are we convinced that our prayers can make something seemingly impossible happen?

If we answer, “No,” we are in a sense correct, in that we cannot make it happen. Indeed, we cannot demand anything of God, or even expect some outcome. All we can do is pray to God through the intercession of our Venerable person. If anything special happens, it will be through the grace of God, freely given, not based on our demands, expectations or even fervent desires.

Of course, it wouldn't hurt if we had the faith of a mustard seed, which Jesus said could move mountains. But don't put extra pressure on yourself. Just pray and, “Let go, let God,” as the saying goes.



A Prayer

With all this in mind, I made up a prayer for intercession. It is not formally recognized, as in having the imprimatur of a bishop; but it is one I feel comfortable saying in asking for God's will to be done. It begins like other prayers for Fr. Flanagan's cause, and I will leave blanks for you to insert any name you might have in mind:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for Father Edward J. Flanagan, who dedicated his life to the young boys
You placed in his care. If it be according to Your will, please move the Church to
proclaim him a saint.

As evidence of Your will and Father Flanagan's worthiness, we pray to You, through
Fr. Flanagan's intercession, for the improvement in the physical condition of
_____. We know that You can completely cure _____, if it be Your will,
and that would be wonderful. But all we ask for is improvement, enough that
_____ can be more independent, as well as contribute to Fr. Flanagan's cause.
Through the power of Your Word, Jesus cured many long-suffering people with
extreme physical limitations. _____ is just one more such person in need,
having been afflicted since his teenage years, making him a good candidate for the
intercession of Fr. Flanagan, who spent his life caring for teenage boys in need.
Of course, we ask this in the name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who said anything you
ask of the Father in my name will be granted.

Amen

Things to Note about the Prayer

- (1) I am praying through only Fr. Flanagan, and no one else, which I believe is one of the requirements in praying for a Venerable person's cause.
- (2) I am not getting flowery in my choice of words, as if I could cajole God into acting upon my request – just straightforward, to the point.
- (3) I am keeping it brief, so as to be easily read every day.
- (4) I am avoiding the word "miracle," asking only for improvement. Any designation of a miracle is reserved for the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.
- (5) I am asking as always "in the name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ."



**DR. TOM DORSEL IS
PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF
PSYCHOLOGY, A
GRADUATE OF NOTRE
DAME, AND A PARISHIONER
AND CANTOR AT ST.
FRANCIS BY THE SEA ON
HILTON HEAD ISLAND. HE
CAN BE FOUND ON
FACEBOOK OR AT
DORSEL.COM**

Welcome to Board Member

REV. MATTHEW J. GUTOWSKI

Rev. Matthew J. Gutowski, S.T.L., was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Omaha in 1988. He received his Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in 1999. He has taught moral theology at Kenrick–Glennon Seminary in St. Louis (2000–2005), was director of the catechetical office for the Archdiocese of Omaha from 2005–2011, and is currently pastor of the parishes of St. Michael in Albion, St. Edward in St. Edward, and St. Anthony in Cedar Rapids in the Archdiocese of Omaha. He currently also serves as chaplain for the Omaha Father Flanagan Guild of the Catholic Medical Association.



Other current duties are those of serving as Spiritual Director for the Holy Family Shrine near Gretna, Nebraska, as Spiritual Director for the Sancta Familia Medical Apostolate in Omaha, and spiritual advisor to the board of Mater Filius of Omaha. He also has served in the past as Director for Continuing Formation for Priests in the Archdiocese of Omaha, served as Episcopal Region IX priest-representative on the National Advisory Council for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and as national chaplain for the Catholic Medical Association.

Fr. Gutowski has a special appreciation for Father Flanagan as his "spiritual grandfather" because his parents John and Christine were married by Father Flanagan in 1945 as his father, an orphan, was personally mentored by Father Flanagan as a Boys Town resident and graduate in the early 1940s. Fr. Gutowski's father during his lifetime was devoted to advancing Father Flanagan's mission of Boys Town through serving in such capacities as the president of the Alumni Association and a founder of the Boys Town Boosters and especially assisting in various ways Msgr. Nicholas Wegner who followed Father Flanagan as Director of Boys Town. His mother likewise served as an officer for the Boys Town Auxiliary Association during the time of its existence. It is with great esteem for and gratitude to Father Flanagan that Fr. Gutowski is pleased to serve on the Board of the Father Flanagan League because his father was one of the disadvantaged boys who personally benefited from Father Flanagan's saintly solicitude for them and his father's love for Father Flanagan and Boys Town has thus been deeply impressed upon him.

Thank you for supporting the Father Flanagan League!

We are so thankful for your support of the Father Flanagan League! Without our donors we would not be able to support our radio ads, promotional materials, prayer cards, bookmarks, novena booklets, Quarterly Newsletters and so much more. Our Challenge Gift Donors came thru in advance with \$35,000 for our matching gifts, you are a special group for us. We welcome all the new donors this year, you bring joy to our hearts! A special love goes to the majority of you, our repeat donors and loyal followers of our beloved Father Edward J. Flanagan! God Bless you and your families for your generous donations and all that you do for the Venerable Edward J. Flanagan cause for sainthood!

Questions? | donations@fatherflanagan.org.

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contactus@fatherflanagan.org



JOIN US TUESDAYS AFTER THE
11:40 AM MASS FOR PRAYER
AND DEVOTION AT FATHER
FLANAGAN'S TOMB. ALL ARE
WELCOME!