

Father Flanagan- The Voice for the Unheard

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Junior Division

Individual Exhibit

Student-Composed Words: 499 words

Process Paper: 498 words

For this year's National History Day project, I chose to research Father Edward J. Flanagan and the Boys Town mission. I was intrigued to learn more after visiting the first home for homeless boys in Omaha, Nebraska. Father Flanagan's success with raising boys came to be widely known over time. People learned about Boys Town by listening to Father Flanagan's radio show, hearing the Boys Town Choir perform and through his inspiring speeches he shared across the world. Flanagan traveled to the Republic of Ireland, made trips to Japan, the Philippines, as well as to Austria and Germany. Following WWII many children were left homeless; President Truman turned to Flanagan to meet with hundreds of government officials to determine how help could be provided. Father Edward J. Flanagan left the key to understanding through his Boys Town vision. Flanagan's pioneering efforts to save children from neglect, abuse, poverty, and illiteracy left a significant mark in history. Therefore, the theme "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding," was well represented.

I researched this topic by locating and reviewing a variety of resources. I visited the Boys Town village, to get an up-close perspective of Father Flanagan's legacy vision. My visit provided insight into the history of an organization that has given new hope to so many at-risk children over the past 100 years. I also had an opportunity to interview Father Steven Boes, Boys Town's fifth and current National Executive Director. Father Boes shared with me the importance of Father Flanagan's vision. I watched the Boys Town movie, which was nominated for five Oscars; it demonstrates how Boys Town evolved. I checked out books from the library, all of which provided detailed information on Father Flanagan and all his endeavors. I found useful online websites, including boystown.org, and nebraskastudies.org, which contained interesting information, direct quotes, and photographs. The research process was extremely rewarding, and I found myself wanting to further my knowledge on Father Flanagan.

I chose the individual exhibit category to present my research. This category requires many skills to properly create an outstanding exhibit. I started by assisting my father in cutting the boards needed to make my display. I chose to present my exhibit as a resemblance of the first Father Flanagan's Boys Home. Next, I selected photographs that related to my project to display on my exhibit. Additionally, I displayed historical images

relating to Father Flanagan and Boys Town.

My topic, "Father Flanagan- A Voice for the Unheard," relates to the theme, "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding," because Flanagan never hesitated to share his philosophy with others, speaking against injustices through his writings, within newspaper and magazine articles, through radio broadcasts and in person with top local and national leaders. He traveled extensively, taking his message of child care reform to other countries. Today, his powerful dream lives on as Boys Town continues to reshape the lives of troubled boys and girls and change the way America cares for children, families, and communities.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources:

“Boys Town.” *Boys Town*, 2019, www.boystown.org/Pages/default.aspx.

Accessed Oct. 2020. This website provided a large variety of historical and current stories on Father Flanagan and Boys Town. Timelines, direct quotations, and photographs of Father Flanagan are provided on the site. Numerous articles describing Father Flanagan’s impact on war orphaned children are available. I chose to use direct quotations and photographs from this website on my exhibit. This website provided me with a thorough outline of Father Flanagan’s life.

Christmas Music. Directed by Father Flanagan, 1949. Accessed Nov. 2020. Christmas music sang by the Boys Town Choir that was founded by Father Flanagan. Father Flanagan’s choir traveled around the world recording music and performing in front of large crowds. I chose to display this record as a reminder of how important the Boys Town Choir was in communicating Father Flanagan’s vision.

Flanagan, Edward J. "Father Flanagan League: Society of Devotion." *The Story of Father Edward J. Flanagan*, 1946. Accessed Oct. 2020. Father Flanagan outlines his dream throughout this leaflet. He shared the reasoning of becoming a priest. He revealed the feelings he had while working against so many odds. I found this leaflet to be an important item in my research because it allowed for me to better understand the hardships and great lengths that Father Flanagan went through for the children of this world.

Flanagan, Father. "Helping the Underprivileged Boy." *The Educational Forum*, vol. 8, no. 3, Mar. 1944, pp. 261–264, 10.1080/00131724409340959. Accessed Aug. 2020. This journal is written by Father Flanagan and I found it particularly interesting to read. He emphasized the importance of what love, guidance and education has on children. He wrote about his vision and the changes he felt were needed within the criminal justice system. The journal entry assisted me to better understand the importance of his vision and why society most definitely needed to change the way children were cared for.

Flanagan, Father Edward. *Education*. Father Flanagan League, 1947. Accessed Nov. 2020.

Throughout this speech Father Flanagan outlines the importance of a strong education. The speech allowed me to better understand why Father Flanagan incorporated education as a major factor at Boys Town.

Flanagan, Father Edward. *Introduction*. Father Flanagan League, 1946. Accessed Nov. 2020.

This historic speech told by Father Flanagan provided me with a better understanding of why he chose to create Boys Town and why changes were so importantly needed for troubled youth.

Flanagan, Father Edward. *Re-Echoes*. Father Flanagan League, 1946. Accessed Nov. 2020.

In this speech Father Flanagan told stories about previous boys that grew up at Boys Town. This speech allowed me to better understand the significant role that Father Flanagan provided on the youth that resided under his care. Listening to the speech helped me to better understand the importance of reform schools for children.

Flanagan, Father Edward. *World Outreach*. Father Flanagan League, 1947. Accessed Nov, 2020.

In this speech Father Flanagan tells about his trips to Japan and Germany. The speech allowed for me to better understand how children were neglected and how Father Flanagan communicated his vision around the world.

Fulton Oursler, and Will Oursler. *Father Flanagan of Boys Town*. Garden City, N.Y.,

Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1978. Accessed Oct. 2020. I chose to display this book with my exhibit because it has numerous writings from actual boys that were a part of the Boys Town dream. The different individuals each portray their own personal stories and the outcome that Father Flanagan had on each of them. The outcomes were amazing. This book helped me to better understand the significance that Father Flanagan left on the youth of his time.

“Fundraising Letter.” 22 Nov. 1943. Accessed Nov. 2020. A Christmas letter written by

Father Edward J. Flanagan. I chose to display a copy of the historical Christmas letter written by Father Flanagan on my exhibit to show another form of his various ways of communication that he shared with those around him. His Christmas letter had a direct quote within it written by a student from the upcoming graduating class of Boys Town. The quote was nicely written that I found myself impressed by the huge impact that Father Flanagan left on each child in his care.

Neuverth, Kara. “Biography.” *Boys Town*, 2000, www.boystown.org/about/

[father-flanagan/Pages/biography.aspx](http://www.boystown.org/about/father-flanagan/Pages/biography.aspx). Accessed Aug. 2020. This website provides detailed information of the Boys Town mission and Father Flanagan. Complete information regarding Flanagan’s life is provided from start to finish. The various ways of communication that Flanagan shared with the world to spread his dream are accessible throughout this website. I found the information to be beneficial to my project and chose to display photographs on my exhibit from this website.

Post Commemorative Society. *Father Flanagan Founder of Boys Town*, 14 July 1986.

Accessed Oct. 2020. I chose to display this on my exhibit to show the importance that Father Flanagan left in history. This commemorative stamp was made to honor Father Flanagan. The stamp included a detailed leaflet explaining Father Flanagan’s prophecy. I feel that this stamp helps to display the significant mark that Father Flanagan left in history.

Stevens, Clifford J. *Father Flanagan; Builder of Boys*. New York, P.J. Kennedy, 1967. Accessed Oct. 2020. This book taught me the importance of Father Flanagan's philosophy- there is no such thing as a bad boy. It describes the difficulties that youth faced during an era when children were not respected as they are today. The book helped me to better understand the importance of what a safe environment, education and love provide to troubled youth.

Thompson, Chip. "Father Flanagan League." *fatherflanigan.org*, 2009, fatherflanigan.org/. Accessed Sept. 2020. I found this website especially important because it provided actual recordings and letters from Father Flanagan. Flanagan's radio show talks can be listened to on this site. This website was important because I was able to listen to Father Flanagan tell his dream in his own words.

Secondary Sources:

Author, Clifford J. *I Remember Father Flanagan*. Bloomington, In, Universe, 2013. Accessed Nov. 2020. This book, written by Father Stevens, outlines the story of Father Flanagan. The various adversities and triumphs of Father Flanagan's work with troubled youth are told throughout the book. The book allowed for me to understand the significant changes that Father Flanagan left on both past and present youth.

Barbara Lonnborg, and Thomas J Lynch. *Father Flanagan's Legacy : Hope and Healing For Children*. Editorial: Boys Town, Ne, Boys Town Press, 2003. Accessed Oct. 2020. The book described abused children, African-American that were excluded from full rights, interned Japanese-American and World War II orphans. Several different scripts and letters written by Father Flanagan are provided within this book. I found this book to be beneficial to my project since I was able to read Father Flanagan's actual writings. The book strengthened my knowledge of the situations that many children faced during that era.

Boes, Father Steven. *History of Boys Town*. Sept. 2020. Accessed Sept. 2020. Father Steven Boes is the current Boys Town National Executive Director. I thought it would be interesting to interview him to receive his input regarding the significance that Father Flanagan left on children all around the world. He stated that although over one hundred years has passed, Father Flanagan's dream still lives on stronger than ever. Tens of thousands of children across the world have benefited from the vision that Father Flanagan had so years ago. I enjoyed this interview and felt that it provided me with a direct source to gain more knowledge on Father Flanagan and Boys Town.

Boys Town. Directed by Taurog Norman, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, 1938. Accessed Oct. 2020.

This movie was the Oscar winning video that shared the story of Father Flanagan and his dream. The movie represented the way children were treated and how Flanagan worked hard to change the justice system for all youth. I found this movie to be helpful with my project because it was a visual way to interpret Father Flanagan's life.

Boys Town. *Get to Know Boys Town-History*. 26 Mar. 2019,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRH86HJu82k. Accessed Aug. 2020. This video shows two separate Boys Town directors sharing Father Flanagan's story. Both directors shared the importance of how Flanagan's knowledge of child welfare was far beyond his time. This video provided me with understanding of the many challenges that Flanagan faced and the determination that he had to proceed on.

Charles Parlin Graves, and William Hutchinson. *Father Flanagan: Founder of Boys*

Town. Champaign, Ill., Garrard Pub. Co, 1972. Accessed Sept. 2020. I thought that this book was interesting because it detailed the importance of Flanagan's news broadcasts and his speeches with world leaders. He was able to spread his word more widely using them. Father Flanagan's speeches he shared with world leaders were so significant that the way the world cared for children changed drastically. The inspiration Father Flanagan fostered is professionally written throughout the book.

“Father Edward Flanagan's Legacy.”

www.Thebostonpilot.com, thebostonpilot.com/opinion/article.asp?id=180466. Accessed Sept. 2020. The Boston Pilot is a Catholic forum website. I found the information on this site to be beneficial to read. The information written pertained to Father Flanagan's vision, but the words used to describe his dream were immensely powerful and meaningful. I chose to use quotations from this website to display on my exhibit.

“Father Flanagan’s Foundational Values Ensured Boys Town Was Built to Last.” *Boys Town*, www.boystown.org/blog/Pages/Foundational-Values.aspx. Accessed Sept. 2020.

This website provided an informative outline of Father Flanagan’s dream. The stories that were provided detailed the importance of children having a home, love, and an education. I chose to use direct quotations from this website on my exhibit.

“History of Corrections—Punishment, Prevention, or Rehabilitation? | Encyclopedia.com.”

Encyclopedia.com, 2019, www.encyclopedia.com/reference/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/history-corrections-punishment-prevention-or-rehabilitation.

Accessed Nov. 2020. This article described the different philosophies of the juvenile justice system and how different punishments affected youth. This writing allowed for me to better understand the punishment system along with how and why rehabilitation over incarceration is a better choice for juvenile criminals.

“How to Raise Children Who Celebrate Diversity.” *Education Post*,

16 Sept. 2020, educationpost.org/how-to-raise-children-who-celebrate-diversity/.

Accessed Nov. 2020. This is an educational website that provides historical information regarding individuals who changed the way society cares for children. It provided detailed descriptions of how Father Flanagan’s vision of housing, love and education can help structure children. I appreciated the historical information provided and felt it was helpful and knowledgeable.

“Juvenile Justice History — Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice.”

Cjcj.org, 2019, www.cjcj.org/education1/juvenile-justice-history.html. Accessed Oct. 2020. I learned the history of the juvenile justice system from this article. I was intrigued to read more information regarding the justice system to better understand why Father Flanagan felt changes were desperately needed around the world.

“Juvenile Justice.” *Scholastic.com*, The New York Times Upfront, 2017,

upfront.scholastic.com/issues/2017-18/121117/juvenile-justice.html. Accessed Nov. 2020. This article allowed me to better understand the importance of reform schools. The article outlines many of the same philosophies that Father Flanagan shared around the world. I felt this article helped me to better understand why reform schools that offer a stable environment are critical for vulnerable youth.

Muller, Gerald F. *There Are No Bad Boys, a Story of Father Edward Flanagan*. 1959.

Accessed Sept. 2020. I found this book intriguing because it focused mainly on the rehabilitation of troubled youth. Father Flanagan showed no prejudices against race or religion and believed that there was no such thing as a bad boy. I found this book to be valuable to my project, it allowed me to better understand the dream that Flanagan communicated to the world.

O'Connor, Michael. "An Early Photo Is a Reminder of Boys Town's Beginnings, and

Its Mission." *Omaha World Herald*, Dec. 2019. Accessed Nov. 2020. This news article was written to retell the story of Father Flanagan and Boys Town. I found this new article intriguing because it provided many historical photographs of Father Flanagan's complete life. The photos began with his early years and went through to the current Boys Town. The photos provided me with a visual perspective of Flanagan's dream.

Omaha Magazine. "A Timeline of Father Flanagan's Life." *YouTube*,

21 Feb. 2017, www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHFMiLuEDzM. Accessed Nov. 2020. I found this video interesting because it provided a detailed slideshow on Father Flanagan the founder of Boys Town. The images displayed throughout the video allowed for me to better understand the cruelty the children of that era endured. I found this video to be useful because it allowed for me to better understand the vision Father Flanagan had, and the reason he went through great measures to share his voice around the world.

“Reflection on Father Edward Flanagan, Founder of Boys Town | *EWTN*. ”

EWTN Global Catholic Television Network,

www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/reflection-on-father-edward-flanagan-founder-of-boys-town-9199. Accessed Aug. 2020. This website provides a detailed historical outline regarding the historical significance that Father Flanagan left on the world. The site describes the importance of the Oscar winning movie, Boys Town. The publicity from the movie significantly assisted Father Flanagan with broadcasting his dream around the world. I found this site beneficial in my research process because it outlined various ways of successful communication theories that Father Flanagan had in sharing his plan.

Reilly, Hugh J, and Kevin Warneke. *Father Flanagan of Boys Town: A Man of Vision*.

Editorial: Boys Town, Neb., Boys Town Press, 2008. Accessed Aug. 2020. This book shares how Father Flanagan traveled all over the world spreading hope and changing laws regarding how children are taken care of. The mission work in Japan and Asia that Father Flanagan completed for President Truman is outlined. The book was beneficial in my research because it provided me with another perspective of why Father Flanagan’s vision was so important for the world.

Scialabba, Nicole. "Should Juveniles Be Charged as Adults in the Criminal Justice System?" *Americanbar.org*, 3 Oct. 2016.

www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/childrens-rights/articles/2016/should-juveniles-be-charged-as-adults/. Accessed Nov. 2020.

This article helped me to better understand the different perspectives regarding why juveniles received adult punishments in the past. Various pros and cons were detailed throughout the reading material. I felt gaining more knowledge regarding the juvenile justice system helped me to better understand the past treatment of juvenile criminals.

"Spotlight on Father Flanagan, Founder of Boys Town."

Thewildgeese.Irish, thewildgeese.irish/profiles/blogs/the-right-reverent-monsignor-flanagan-a-frail-irish-poorly-child. Accessed Dec. 2020. This website article was written by a historian who studied Father Flanagan and his dream. Stories from individual boys that Father Flanagan directly helped to change their lives are included throughout the site. I found the website to be interesting and really enjoyed the choice of words that were used to describe Father Flanagan. I chose to use direct quotations from this website on my exhibit.

Stevens, Clifford J. *Legacy of Devotion: Father Edward J. Flanagan of Boys Town*.

Boys Town Press, 2019. Accessed Oct. 2020. This book is written by a boy that attended Boys Town that later became a priest. I felt that the research involved in this book and the portrayal that Father Flanagan had on the children of his time was very nicely written. I found this book to be beneficial in my research because the key to understanding Father Flanagan's vision was clearly illustrated.

Young, Michael. "Father Edward J. Flanagan Founder of Boys Town in 1917."

nebraskastudies.org, 2003, nebraskastudies.org/en/1900-1924/father-edward-j-flanagan-founder-of-boys-town-in-1917/. Accessed Aug. 2020. The story of Father Edward J. Flanagan is retold throughout the website. The site is set up as an educational lesson. A complete timeline with historical images from beginning to end of Father Flanagan's life is provided. I felt the information included within the website assisted me to better understand the life and vision of Father Flanagan.

Full Exhibit



Father Flanagan- The Voice for the Unheard

Left Top Panel Photo



HIS VISION

"Father Flanagan believes there is no such thing as a bad boy and spends his life attempting to prove it. He battles ecclesiastice, the legal system, and often even the boys, to build a sanctuary that he calls Boys Town."
Courtesy of "Father Edward Flanagan's Legacy" www.theelectorpalat.com

Father Flanagan had an eager insight into a great many social issues affecting children and families. His knowledge of these issues was often the motivating force behind revolutionary improvements in child care and family stability.

Left Top Panel Text

HIS VISION

"Father Flanagan believes there is no such thing as a bad boy and spends his life attempting to prove it. He battles indifference, the legal system, and often even the boys, to build a sanctuary that he calls Boys Town."

- "Father Edward Flanagan's Legacy." *The Boston Pilot Catholic forum*

Father Flanagan had an eager insight into a great many social issues affecting children and families. His knowledge of these issues was often the motivating force behind revolutionary improvements in childcare and family stability.

Left Center Panel Photo



Source Credit Text:

Father Flanagan, Father Flanagan League
First Father Flanagan Boys Home, Boys Town
Father Flanagan Boys Home Journal, Father Edward
J. Flanagan Founder of Boys Town in 1917
Overlook Farm, Boys Town
Flanagan's Radio Show, Boys Town
Boys Town Village, Boys Town
Boys Town Movie, Boys Town

Left Center Panel Text

1912

"Father Flanagan is ordained and assigned to the Diocese of Omaha." Father Flanagan League

1917

"Father Flanagan rents a home and officially opens the first Father Flanagan's Boys Home." Boys Town

1918

"The first print of the Father Flanagan's Boys Home Journal is printed." Edward J. Flanagan founder of Boys Town in 1917

1921

"Father Flanagan moves the Home to Overlook Farm, 10 miles west of Omaha. Later known as Boys Town." Boys Town

1926

"Father Flanagan begins broadcasting his national weekly radio show." Boys Town

1936

"Boys Town becomes an incorporated village of the State of Nebraska." Boys Town

1938

"Oscar winning movie Boys Town was released." Boys Town

Left Bottom Panel Photo



Source Credit Text:

Boys Town Choir, Father Flanagan League

Flanagan's WWII Recognition, Boys Town

Father Flanagan's Japan Mission, Boys Town

Father Flanagan with Harry Truman- Father Flanagan League

Father Flanagan's Passing, Boys Town

Boys Town Statue, Boys Town

Left Bottom Panel Text

1941

“CBS Radio airs the first of several national radio broadcasts featuring the Boys Town Choir.” Father Flanagan League

1942

"Father Flanagan was named America's #1 Father during World War II as a result of the number of Boys Town Boys that served in the armed forces and listed him as their next of kin." Boys Town

1947

"By invitation from the U.S. War Department, Father Flanagan tours Japan and Korea and investigates the need for aid of war orphans and meets with General Douglas MacArthur." Boys Town

1947

"Father Flanagan reports his findings of his Asian trip to President Harry S. Truman at the White House."
Father Flanagan League

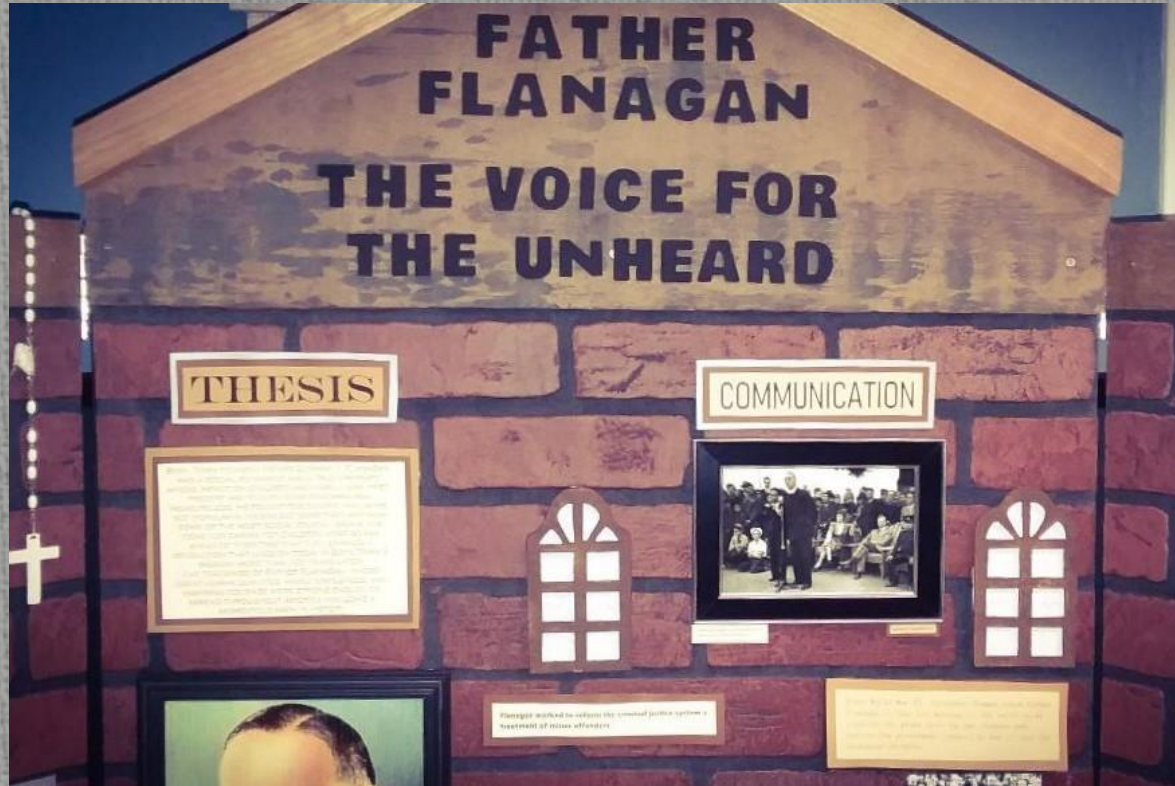
1948

"During a child welfare mission to Europe, Father Flanagan passes away in Berlin, Germany, at age 61." Boys Town

1948- Present

"Father Flanagan's vision of saving children continues on over 100 years later." Boys Town

Center Top Panel Photo



Source Credit Text: Father Flanagan Communicating His Vision With National Leaders, Boys Town

Center Top Panel Text

THESIS

BOYS TOWN FOUNDER FATHER EDWARD J. FLANAGAN WAS A SOCIAL REFORMIST AND A TRUE VISIONARY WHOSE IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND FAMILY CARE- PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE IS FAR REACHING AND MEASURELESS. HE FOUGHT FOR CAUSES THAT WERE NOT POPULAR IN HIS ERA BUT WERE THEN AND NOW SOME OF THE MOST SOCIAL CRUCIAL ISSUES. HIS IDEAS FOR CARING FOR CHILDREN WERE SO FAR AHEAD OF THEIR TIME THAT THEY SPARKED A REVOLUTION THAT LIVES ON TODAY IN BOYS TOWN'S MISSION, MORE THAN 100 YEAR LATER. THE TEACHINGS OF FATHER FLANAGAN, WHOSE GREAT HUMAN QUALITIES, KINDLY SIMPLENESS, AND INSPIRING COURAGE WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT AMERICA AND LEAVE A MOMENTOUS MARK IN HISTORY.

COMMUNICATION

Flanagan worked to reform the criminal justice system's treatment of minor offenders.

After World War II, President Truman asked Father Flanagan to take his message to the world, so he traveled the globe visiting war orphans and instructing government leaders on how to care for displaced children.

Center Center Panel Photo

Father Edward J. Flanagan

Flanagan worked to reform the criminal justice system's treatment of minor offenders.

After World War II, President Truman asked Father Flanagan to take his message to the world so he traveled the globe visiting war orphans and instructing government leaders on how to care for displaced children.

"He undertook the enormous task of traveling to 33 American states and 12 countries in Asia and Europe, learning himself in the studies of social theories, the justice system and the welfare system in all of these states and countries, in his endeavor to find the best solutions for nurturing the children under his care."
(Courtesy of "Spotlight on Father Flanagan, Founder of Boys Town." TheVillagePress.com.)

"His words came sharp and decisive, and he knew the critical importance of his public lesson and the power of words."
(Courtesy of "Reflection on Father Edward Flanagan, Founder of Boys Town." EWTV.)
EWTV Global Catholic Television Network.

After World War II, Flanagan set out to reform the criminal justice system, which he believed was a major cause of the problem. He traveled the globe from 1945 to 1955, visiting 33 American states and 12 countries in Asia and Europe, learning himself in the studies of social theories, the justice system and the welfare system in all of these states and countries, in his endeavor to find the best solutions for nurturing the children under his care.

Father Flanagan was a priest. He worked with the poor, and he had many children in his care. He traveled the globe from 1945 to 1955, visiting 33 American states and 12 countries in Asia and Europe, learning himself in the studies of social theories, the justice system and the welfare system in all of these states and countries, in his endeavor to find the best solutions for nurturing the children under his care.

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Source Credit Text:

Father Edward J. Flanagan, Father Flanagan Leauge
Father Flanagan Visiting Children In Japan After WWII, Boys Town
War Orphaned Children Receiving Reassurance From Father Flanagan, Boys Town

Center Center Panel Text

Father Flanagan communicated his vision in countless ways. Flanagan aired a weekly national news broadcast where he would share results of his studies and the importance of changes that needed made within the criminal justice system. He started the Boys Town Choir who traveled around singing and recording music. The choir intrigued their followers to look further into Father Flanagan's philosophies and provided aid in the spread of his beliefs. In 1938, an Oscar winning movie portraying Father Flanagan was released. The movie was called *Boys Town*. After the release of the movie, Father Flanagan's vision was spread across the world. Father Flanagan met with many local and national leaders conducting intense speeches. He traveled the globe on various missions for President Truman. While traveling the world, he shared his proposals through intense lectures and demanded changes in the juvenile criminal justice system. Father Flanagan had a broad spectrum of communication for his era and significantly left a crucial mark in history.

"He undertook the enormous task of traveling to 31 American states and 12 countries in Asia and Europe, immersing himself in the studies of social theories, the justice system and the welfare system in all of these states and countries, in his endeavor to find the best solutions for nurturing the children under his care."

- "Spotlight on Father Flanagan, Founder of Boys Town."
TheWildGeese.Irish

"His word came sharp and decisive, and he knew the critical importance of his public forum and the power of words."

- "Reflection on Father Edward Flanagan, Founder of Boys Town | EWTN." *EWTN Global Catholic Television Network*

Center Bottom Panel Photo



Source Credit Text:

First Five Boys To Reside At The Father Flanagan Boys Home, Boys Town
Commemorative Stamp Honoring Father Flanagan, Post Commemorative Society
Boys Town National Landmark Statue, Boys Town
Boys Town Choir Record, Father Flanagan
Father Flanagan Christmas Letter, Father Flanagan
Father Flanagan Historic Book, Fulton and Will Oursler

Center Bottom Panel Text

Father Flanagan frequently mailed out fundraising letters communicating the importance of his vision and pursued assistance from his followers. He published several newspaper and magazine articles that were distributed around the globe. Communication was a key element in the success of Father Flanagan's vision of how children should be treated.

Father Flanagan fortified with nothing but an extraordinary vision and enormous dedication, which in turn, changed how America cares for its children .

“Father Flanagan became a father to the fatherless, providing a caring home for every boy who came to Boys Town. His dream was to create an America where children were valued, respected, loved, cared for, educated, and guided so they could become good people, productive workers, involved citizens and caring, responsible parents for generations of children to come.”

- “Boys Town.” *BoysTown.org*

Right Top Panel Photo



Source Credit Text:

Flanagan Visiting War Ravished Areas Where Orphaned Children Were Residing, Boys Town
Hollywood Pays Tribute To Father Flanagan, Boys Town

Right Top Panel Text

KEY TO UNDERSTANDING

“Through his own fiery speeches and in partnerships with other social advocates, he was able to shut down nearly every reform school, where children were often abused and used as free labor. He also shamed faith-based orphanages into adopting his more compassionate model of care, where youth received an education and enrichment through music, the arts and religion. In doing so, Father Flanagan showed the country that even the most troubled kid could become a good citizen.”

- “A Brief History of Boys Town.” *Omaha.com*

“By 1938, he was internationally known, and had received many awards for his work. He was asked to serve on many committees and boards dealing with the welfare of children. He tutored other clergy, who were in awe of his knowledge of the justice system, childcare and related subjects. U.S. presidents and other world leaders and senators, congressmen and other powerful people sought his advice on all child-welfare policies.”

- “Spotlight on Father Flanagan, Founder of Boys Town.”

TheWildGeese.Irish

Right Center Panel Photo



Source Credit Text: Map Of Historic Boys Town, Boys Town

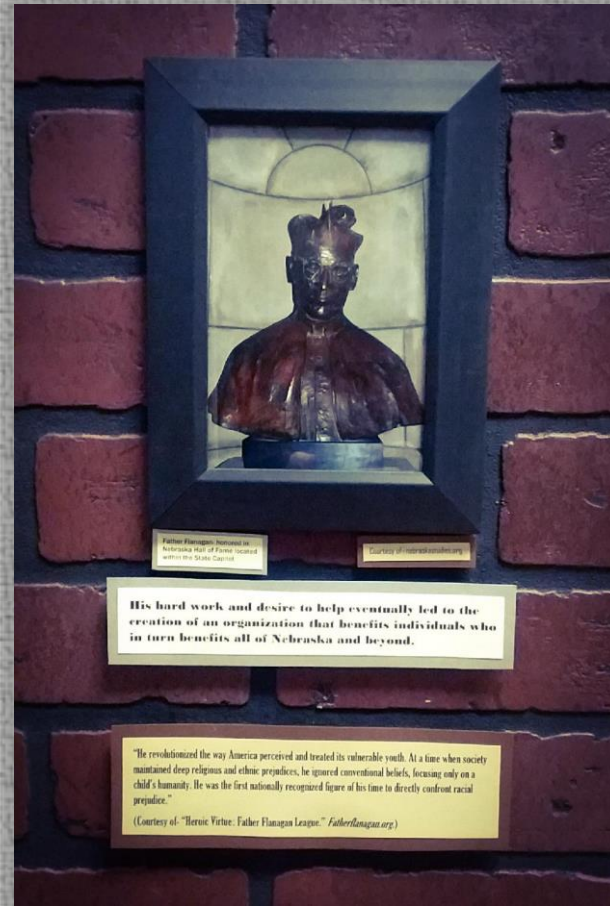
Right Center Panel Text

Boys Town founded by Flanagan has grown to a leading national nonprofit, offering extraordinary care for the behavioral, emotional and physical health of children, families and patients.

“Father Flanagan would shatter the failures in childcare by creating a place of learning, hope and refuge that has become the model for giving kids second chances. He wrote "... Rehabilitation rather than retribution is the goal, re-education rather than condemnation... through research and education, can we hope to prevent as well as to cure maladies of personality which for some end in tragedy and for millions of others in frustration and discouragement in life.... "

- “Father Flanagan’s Foundational Values Ensured Boys Town Was Built to Last.” *Boys Town.org*

Right Bottom Panel Photo



Source Credit Text: Father Flanagan-
Nebraska Hall of Fame, Father
Edward J. Flanagan Founder of Boys
Town in 1917

Right Bottom Panel Text

His hard work and desire to help eventually led to the creation of an organization that benefits individuals who in turn benefits all of Nebraska and beyond.

“He revolutionized the way American perceived and treated its vulnerable youth. At a time when society maintained deep religious and ethnic prejudices, he ignored conventional beliefs, focusing only on a child’s humanity. He was the first nationally recognized figure of his time to directly confront racial prejudice.”

- “Heroic Virtue: Father Flanagan League.”

FatherFlanagan.org