

New Celebrations This Year on November 9th

Background: On November 9th, 2025, Pope Francis asked dioceses to begin a new liturgical celebration. This celebration is to remember those people whose causes for canonization have been opened, but who are not yet beatified (called “Blessed N.”) or canonized (called “Saint N.”). Pope Francis made this request to “honor these figures of holiness” and to “perpetuate the memory of extraordinary disciples of Christ who have left a living mark of the presence of the Risen Lord and who are still sure guides today in the common path towards God, protecting and supporting us.” This celebration begins this year and will continue into the future.

Our Local Cause: In the Archdiocese of Omaha, we are blessed to have the memory and example of the Servant of God, Father Edward Joseph Flanagan. Fr. Flanagan lived from 1886-1948. Born in Leabeg Townland, County Roscommon, Ireland, his father was a herdsman. He moved to the USA in 1904 and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Omaha in 1912. He served at St. Patrick Parish in O’Neill and St. Patrick Parish in Omaha before founding Boys Town in 1921. He served there faithfully until his death in 1948. (More information, including devotional materials, can be obtained from the Father Flanagan League Society of Devotion at fatherflanagan.org.) His cause was opened in 2012.

Since Fr. Flanagan is not yet beatified or canonized, the Church carries out no public prayers for his intercession, as we do with the Saints and Blesseds. However, individuals are free and encouraged to seek his intercession. Should healings happen by his intercession, all people are encouraged to communicate those to the archbishop, since three verified healings are needed for eventual canonization.

Fr. Flanagan’s tomb is located inside of Immaculate Conception Church (Dowd Chapel) in Boys Town, NE. The church and tomb are beautiful and a perfect place for a family visit. Fr. Flanagan spent his life in service of God, filled with the conviction, as he said, that “The poor, innocent, unfortunate little children belong to us, and it is our problem to give them every chance to develop into good men and good women.” After Masses on Tuesdays at Boys Town, there are prayers at the tomb. All are welcome.

In 2024, a documentary on Fr. Flanagan was released. It is called “Heart of a Servant: The Father Flanagan Story”. It is available for streaming rental or purchase on Amazon Prime Video. Here’s a QR code for the film:



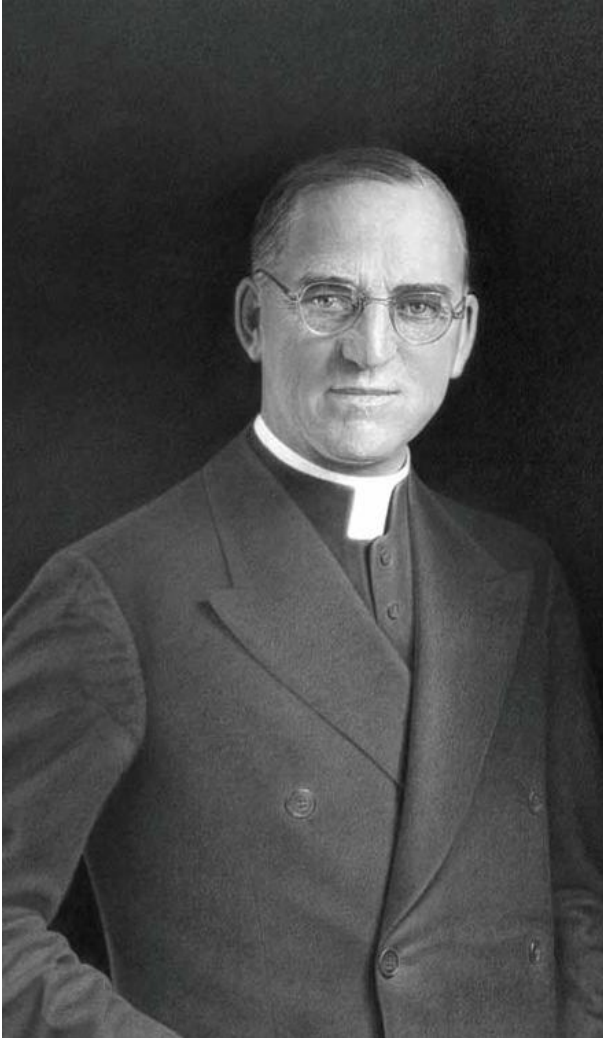
This year, let’s give thanks to God for the great witness of Fr. Flanagan for the Church in northeast Nebraska and the whole world!



Father Flanagan League

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Beatification & Intercession Prayer



Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the graces given to your
Servant of God 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
Servant of God Father Flanagan, who
trusted in Your Divine Providence and gain
his intercession with the need placed
before You:

(Name your petition here)

We ask You, Lord God, to raise Your
Servant of God 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 are for Your
precious little ones.

We pray in the Name of Your Son Jesus
Christ Our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**