



Fr. Leo Anctil Columbian Squires Circle #5211

June 2010 Newsletter

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Happy Father's Day!

Wishing all Squires Dads, Granddads and Uncles a very Happy and Blessed Father's Day!

A Prayer for Fathers:

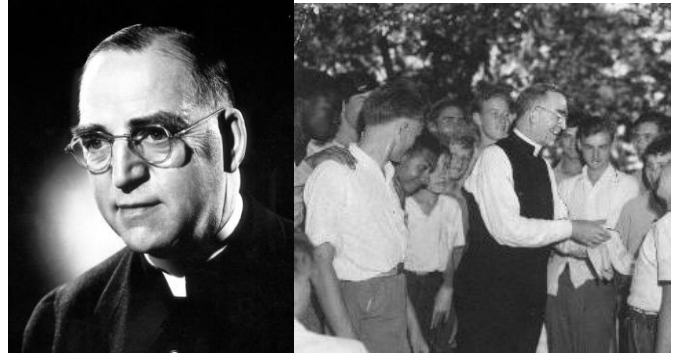
God, bless all the fathers in the world.
 Guide them to be good role models
 and loving to all their children.
 Help them to be a father like You are.
 Give them grace and patience
 to handle situations in a loving way.
 Amen!

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June Priest of the Month

Father Edward J. Flanagan



As the Columbian Year ends, so does the "Year of the Priest." Our last installment for "Priest of the Month" is Father Edward J. Flanagan, the founder of perhaps the most famous orphanage in the world – Boys Town.

Father Edward J. Flanagan was born on July 13, 1886, in Leabeg, County Roscommon, near Ballymoe, County Galway, Ireland. He was the eighth in a family of eleven children. He was very frail at birth; his grandfather held him, keeping him warm by the fire. His parents were hard-working farmers, intelligent and very devoted to their Catholic religion. Many years later, Father Flanagan wrote of his home: "The old-fashioned home with its fireside companionship, its religious devotion and its closely-knit family ties is my idea of what a home should be. My father would tell me many stories that were interesting to a child—stories of adventure, or the struggle of the Irish people for independence. It was from him I learned the great science of life, of examples from the lives of saints, scholars and patriots. It was from his life I first learned the fundamental rule of life of the great Saint Benedict, 'Pray and work.'"

As Edward grew older, his father commissioned him to take complete care of the sheep and cattle. Edward's duty was to keep the animals from wandering into the dangerous peat bogs that bordered their property on two sides. This pastoral work gave him much time to think, to study, to read and to pray. He noticed his father saying the rosary as he worked, and he too, began to pray the rosary.

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Service Committee Report

Brother Squires,

The Tootsie Roll drive check for \$1,085.00 has been sent in to The State Council. I would like to congratulate you all on such a good job doing the Tootsie Roll drive! You really did great! I would also like to throw out the idea of a car wash to raise money. I believe it would be a fun and efficient way to raise money for charity.

Josh Fidler, Service Committee Chairman

Chief Squire's Corner

This is my last Chief Squire's Corner, and I would like to reiterate how much of a privilege it has been to hold such a prestigious position. I'd like to thank the Squires and our counselors for giving me this chance, and for that I am truly grateful.

I would like to congratulate the new officers: Chief Squire Stephen Smith, Deputy Chief Squire Norman Frances, Notary Sam Cote, and Treasurer Zack Farrell.

Nick Parent, Worthy Chief Squire

Fr. Leo Anctil Circle to participate in Special Olympics Opening Ceremonies

Our Circle will be participating in opening ceremonies of Special Olympics Rhode Island State Summer Games on Friday, June 4 at Meade Stadium on the URI Campus in Kingston. Squires and Counselors will wear the dress uniform which is a white shirt with black trousers and black shoes along with baldrics and officer jewels. The ceremonies start @ 7:30PM. As for transportation, we will meet @ 6:00PM sharp at the Hopkins Hill Park and Ride so that we will be on time for the ceremony. Please make every effort to attend this most important event and show that the Fr. Leo Anctil Columbian Squires support the Special Olympics!!!



Special Olympics
Rhode Island

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS OPENING CEREMONY

PLACE TO MEET: HOPKINS HILL PARK N RIDE

DATE: FRIDAY, 6/4/2010

TIME: 6:00 PM

JUNE BUSINESS MEETING

PLACE: K OF C BLESSING COUNCIL HALL

DATE: FRIDAY, 6/25/10

TIME: 7:00 PM

JULY BUSINESS MEETING

PLACE: K OF C BLESSING COUNCIL HALL

DATE: FRIDAY, 7/2/2010

TIME: 7:00 PM

JULY SOCIAL MEETING

PLACE: K OF C BLESSING COUNCIL HALL

DATE: FRIDAY, 7/16/2010

TIME: 7:00 PM

PAWSOX GAME – Thursday, August 19th!



VS.



The Circle Committee is happy to announce the third annual Squires Pawtucket Red Sox Game Outing on Thursday, August 19th at the McCoy Stadium. The PawSox are taking on the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs. The game starts at 7:05PM. To buy tickets, please contact either Circle Committee Chairman Evan Patten (823-9699) or Circle Committee Counselor Neil Fidler (823-8526) with how many tickets you wish to buy. Squires' Families are most certainly welcome! Also, we will be inviting Brother Knights from our sponsoring Council. Transportation arrangements will be made as we get closer to the date, and more details to come!

Membership Committee Report

Squires, I have little to say this month, other than to remind you that recruitment is pivotal to the long-term success of this organization. Also, there is a possibility that we may be putting on another membership blitz in the near future.

Stephen Smith, Membership Committee Chairman

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In a letter to Rev. Michael O'Flanagan, Dublin County, Ireland, April 26, 1942, Father Flanagan wrote: "You also may not know that I was the little shepherd boy who took care of the cattle and the sheep. That seemed to be my job as I was the delicate member of the family and good for nothing else, and with probably a poorer brain than most of the other members of the family. I was sent away to school to study for the Priesthood, as I stated above, I wasn't much good for anything else; so my job as a shepherd boy filled in very nicely in preparation for my life's work afterward."

He attended his neighborhood elementary school in Drimatemple and entered Summerhill College, in Sligo, Ireland in the Fall of 1900, for his secondary education. In 1904, Flanagan graduated from Summerhill with honors and sailed for the United States. He wanted to become a priest. Later, in answer to the question as to why he wanted to become priest, he responded: "I presume that what caused me to become a Priest was because I wanted to help people – spiritually – I wanted to teach people, and it was that desire that took hold of me and I never had any other desire at any time in my life."

In the United States, he enrolled in Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland, and graduated in June, 1906. He entered Saint Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, New York, in September, 1906, and left in the the spring of 1907 due to poor health. Following a period of recuperation with his family in Omaha, Nebraska, he left to study at the Gregorian University, Rome, Italy. Again poor health forced him to abandon his studies. He returned to Omaha to rebuild his health, and in this period worked as an accountant at the Cudahay Meat Packing Company.

In the fall of 1909, he was accepted by the Royal Imperial Leopold Frances University in Innsbruck, Austria. The high altitude was good for his health, so he was able to continue his studies there, and was ordained with the Jesuits at Innsbruck in 1912.

When he returned to Omaha in 1912, he was assigned to the Diocese of Omaha, administered by Bishop Harty, who had also graduated from Sligo in Ireland. The new Father Flanagan celebrated his first solemn High Mass at Holy Angels Church, Omaha in August, 1912. His first parish assignment was Saint Patrick's in O'Neill, after which he was appointed Assistant Pastor to Saint Patrick's Parish, Omaha in March, 1913.

Seeing the streets of Omaha filled with unemployed migrant farm workers because of a great drought in the summer of 1913, Father Flanagan responded to assist the homeless workers. In the letter to Miss Weis, he wrote: "I was always interested in people and how they lived, and was always interested in trying to help people live better if they were not living well. Then, when the opportunity presented itself due to a great calamity in our

city way back in 1913, I immediately entered the field of social service by establishing a home for unfortunate men."

In November of 1913, Father Flanagan opened the Workingmen's Hotel in downtown Omaha, where men could find shelter, a bed for the night and food. He helped many to obtain employment. As Father Flanagan listened to the stories of thousands of men, he heard over and over again, "It's too late for me now, Father. If only someone had helped me when I was a boy." Father said, "From that work I gradually went into boy work, because I realized that the neglected boys was what caused men to go bad and become neglected." Father Flanagan went out into the streets where he found homeless boys. He took in his first five boys: "My first two boys came from the juvenile courts, and three others, whom I had been befriending in my own small way to keep their bodies and souls together; I picked up off the streets. Those first five boys were the real beginning of Father Flanagan's Boys Home."

By March of 1918, there were so many boys that Father moved to a larger home, The German American Home. "As I look back over (my) life now...I can see the environment in which my character was being developed, and how grateful to God I should be when I compare that wholesome environment with the records of thousands of boys here...if I had the background of some of these boys, I would want to be a Dillinger or a Capone.."

Throughout those years, Father Flanagan was studying to become a citizen of the United States. In 1919, he became a citizen and in 1921, he became a member of the Omaha Welfare Board. His Boys' Home was so crowded by this time, that he searched for property until he found the present site, Overlook farm west of Omaha, which he moved his Home to in 1921. Father Flanagan and his boys had many difficult years in the building up of Overlook Farm. The boys never complained because they found love and safety in their new home. With the premier of the motion picture "Boys Town," on September 7, 1938, the Home became known internationally. Many people sent donations to Father Flanagan which he used to build up his Boys Home and help even more boys.

Father Flanagan received many awards for his work with the delinquent and homeless boys. He served on several committees and boards dealing with the welfare of children and was the author of articles on child welfare. Internationally known, Father Flanagan traveled to Japan and Korea in 1947 to study child welfare problems. He made a similar trip to Austria and Germany and, while in Germany, died on May 15, 1948, of a heart attack. He was buried in the Dowd Chapel at Boys Town.