

Working Mothers Censured By Boys' Town Founder In Charities Dinner Address

"We are retreating on the home front!" warned Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Flanagan, addressing 775 guests at the eighth annual Catholic Charities dinner in Elmira, on Tuesday, Oct. 26 in the Mark Twain Hotel.

In tribute to His Excellency, Bishop James E. Kearney, speaker on the same program, Father Flanagan described him as a man who "seems to have been destined from the cradle to be a spiritual leader."

Designating three classes of Americans, the fighting men, men and women who man our factories, and those who take care of the homes, "sanctuaries where our little children live, where love abides, where proper principles are being inculcated by the parents who are the first teachers of a child," Father Flanagan said that the first two classes were doing all right, "but we've been retreating on the home front—scandalously so, discouragingly so. Those of us who are in charge of the men and women of tomorrow have not been doing so well."

"Fathers and mothers have not been doing the job to which they have been appointed by Almighty God. . . . Fathers work busily in factories, and mothers, if you please, who have these beautiful, precious children, also work in factories."

Tremendous Problem
"It's patriotic," they tell their friends. That's a lie! No mother is patriotic who would go into a factory and leave a little child alone. Describing children returning from school, hoping for some attention from the mother "who is the light of their little world," the speaker said: "They come home to a locked door and go out into the streets, there to stumble into other children, also disillusioned over this whole matter of mother love. These children present a tremendous problem."

Of delinquency in girls, Father Flanagan reported an increase of 120%, with an increase half that for boys. "Boys make mistakes, but they can bounce right back, once they've admitted they're wrong. But little girls fall too far down, they hurt themselves too much for them to get back into respectable society."

"The children on the streets today are wild. . . . They remind me of the type of young people at the time of the revolution in Russia—6 million boys who became the foundation on which Communism was built. They went in gangs, robbed, killed, destroyed property."

"All the institutions of the country couldn't begin to open their doors to the children who need their protection, who need to be placed inside because they are a danger to society outside."

Pointing out that 85% of the people in the United States practice no religion, the speaker stated that they are not capable and have no urge to teach the knowledge of God. They offer purely material motives of behavior that fall short when temptation comes. "We have lost the dignity which Jesus Christ gave to us."

"We are all part of the army on the home front; we are all concerned. Your children will be associating with the children of broken homes, bad homes."

Told To Stay Home
Describing the waves of crime which struck England at the start of its all-out war effort, when its home front was robbed of its teachers and guides, he said that so-called patriotic mothers were told to stay home from the factories and mind their children, "who are, after all, what we are fighting for."

"You cannot legislate morals for children by threat of punishment." Father Flanagan spoke of the need for a coordinated council, supporting juvenile courts and judges, of men and women "whose business is self-sacrifice, who will bring a keener sense of responsibility to parents for their children . . . who will go into homes to see why they are breeding vice and delinquency, to see if something can be done to clean up these pockets of vice."

"There are so many discouraged children today. They are no different from the boys of yesterday. Parents are getting more lax . . . are neglecting the God of love and of might. We are retreating on the home front so badly that we may lose the war after we have won it."

"In conclusion, Father Flanagan asked God's blessing "on your boys and my boys—I have 554 over

First Friday Club To Hear Father Leo Smith

Speaker for the November First Friday Luncheon Club session will be the Rev. Leo V. Smith, spiritual director of St. Bernard's Seminary who will discuss the "Sod of the Month" on Friday, Nov. 5 at Hotel Sagamore.

The First Friday Luncheon Club sessions begin at 12:15 noon and are open to all Catholic laymen who have that morning received Holy Communion. Members of the club are asked to pray for the men and women in the armed forces.

Moderator of the club is the Rev. Raymond G. Heisel, assistant pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. Thomas F. Egan will be chairman of the Friday session.

Character requires a still air. There may be storms and upheaval around, but there must be peace within for the soul to thrive.

there (from Boys Town), 13 of whom have died. Let's make them proud of us. Let them not die in vain.

"May God bring peace soon to this nation. May He bring back your boys and our boys soon. Oh, we have so much to pray for! God bless you!"

Bishop's Statement
His Excellency, Bishop Kearney in speaking of the needs of youth, said, "There is work for all of us." Referring to the statement by J. Edgar Hoover that, in problems of

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Our men and women on the battle front are still fighting that we may stay free. Every day you can feel victory abroad, but at home, bit by bit, we feel a tightening that must not stay a minute after victory is ours.

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