



# FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

THOUGHTS FROM GIRLS AND BOYS TOWN

The Original Father Flanagan's Boys' Home

## You Can Teach Yourself To Succeed

*Fr. Val J. Peter, JCD, STD*

(NAPSA)—While many children remain excited about school year round, there are a number of children for whom the excitement of learning and making new friends fades.



Val J. Peter

These children find it difficult to study and to make new friends. Perhaps you were one of those children who could not find joy in school. It probably caused you to lose hope and give up trying every time things seemed hard. By giving up, you taught yourself helplessness.

What I want to present you is the opportunity to overcome that feeling. It is not too late to teach yourself the opposite—empowerment and success. It is easy. Let your child or kids in the neighborhood be your inspiration.

Let seeing kids going to school encourage you to learn again. Pick something up and make up your mind to learn it. You have the maturity to do it. Now, you just need to build the desire. Go for it!

There are many opportunities. Technical colleges and community colleges offer valuable courses at affordable rates. There are bazillions of courses on computers, mechanics, literature, history, languages and so much more.

Libraries, extension clubs and other public resources offer many opportunities to learn.

Once you get going, it is important to finish what you started. Having success will build, and you will be inspired to have success again.

One of my children, 13-year-old Jose, said it best the other day. Jose, who came to us with only a second-grade education, said: "What I learned at Girls and Boys Town is that I can learn."

It is important to you, too, to realize that everyone can learn. So when you see your kids running out the door, excited to go to school, open up your mind and your books. Not only will you experience success, but your success will inspire others.

Girls and Boys Town, the original Father Flanagan's Boys' Home, is a leader in the direct treatment and care of abused, abandoned and neglected girls and boys. Through 19 sites across the country, the organization directly cares for more than 37,000 girls and boys annually.

Girls and Boys Town also assists 1.5 million children and parents through its National Hotline (1-800-448-3000), outreach and training programs and community partnerships.

