

(See also 15 January and 5 April)

- 1 In the United States of the 1960's, people were still segregated (separated) according to their colour. Those of other colour were kept at a distance from whites. Only whites could sit at the front of buses. In restaurants and cafes, people were kept apart according to colour. There were white-only schools. Most blacks were not allowed to vote.
- 2 Martin Luther King was a Baptist minister. He became involved in trying to get people to change their attitude of hatred and prejudice. He always preached non-violence despite the threats, bombings, stabbings and other violence that was done to him. On this day in 1968, Martin Luther King was shot dead.
- 3 One of his best-known speeches was delivered at the largest rally ever held in the United States - when a quarter of a million people gathered in Washington in a Civil Rights demonstration. He said:
- 4 *"I have a dream  
that one day on the red hills of Georgia  
sons of former slaves  
and the sons of former slave-owners  
will be able to sit down together  
at the table of brotherhood.  
I have a dream  
that my four little children  
will one day live in a nation  
where they will not be judged  
by the colour of their skin  
but by the content of their character.  
I have a dream today."*
- 5 *Let us pray:*

**Father, sometimes I am too quick  
to draw conclusions  
about other people,  
and I fail to see  
many of the qualities in individuals.**

**Remove from me any prejudices  
that might lead me  
to think of myself  
as "better" than someone else.**

**If anyone should be negative  
towards me,  
inspire me to remain positive  
towards them.**

**Because we are all different,  
there are many things  
I need to learn from others,  
and so I ask for the gifts  
of understanding and wisdom  
and a clear vision  
that will lead me to treat others  
as I would like them to treat me.**

**Amen.**

- 6 Let's each of us think of two people in our lives at home or in school or work today whom we need to value and respect a little more. In silence, let's think of ways today in which we can improve those relationships.

*(pause...)*

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in  
*'Praying Each Day of the Year'*,  
a 3-volume book  
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine  
to research this topic further.

This material is part of  
the prayer and education website  
of the De La Salle Brothers  
in Great Britain:  
[www.prayingeachday.org](http://www.prayingeachday.org)