

16 APRIL

- 1 In Korea there is a story told, a legend, about a man who dies and goes to Heaven. Before he enters Heaven he says to the gatekeeper, "Before I go into Heaven I'd like you to take me on a tour of Hell."
- 2 And so the man is taken, first of all, to visit Hell.
When he gets there he is surprised to see a long table piled high with the finest food anyone could ever want. But he saw that the people in Hell were starving, and he asked his guide: "Why is everyone starving?"
- 3 "It's like this," said the guide. "Everybody who comes to Hell is given a pair of chopsticks - two metres long, and they have to hold them at the end at mealtimes. Of course, no-one can eat with chopsticks that long. Look at everyone lifting their chopsticks, trying to feed themselves - they miss their mouths every time. How miserable they all look!"
- 4 The man agreed that this really was Hell, and he asked to be taken straight back to Heaven. When he arrived in Heaven he saw the same kind of table piled high with the very same food. But here the people looked so very happy.
- 5 "No chopsticks, I suppose?" asked the man. "Oh yes," said his guide.

"They have the same chopsticks, two metres long, and they must be held at the end: the same as in Hell. But, here in Heaven, these people have learned that as they feed their neighbour with the long chopsticks, their neighbour feeds them."

6 *Let us pray:*

**Lord, inspire me always
to have genuine care and concern
for others,
and may people be as generous to me
as I am to them.**
Amen.

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