

- 1 Frank Baum was a newspaperman who put his writing talents to use in a series of children's books about a fairyland called the Land of Oz. His characters had wonderful adventures.
- 2 Frank Baum later adapted his book into a musical. 20 years after his death, a musical film called "*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*" had its première yesterday (18th August) in 1939.
- 3 In the story there are four unhappy characters:
  - a scarecrow who thinks he has no brain;
  - a tin woodsman who thinks he has no heart;
  - a lion who thinks he has no courage,
  - and a girl called Dorothy who thinks she has no power to change anything in her life.
- 4 These four characters - all thinking little of themselves - believe that if they reach the Wizard of Oz he will change them so that they have the qualities and talents they would like. What they discover is that the Wizard doesn't force people to change; instead he cares about them. He sends each of them an invitation to see in themselves what they had not seen before.
- 5 And so the scarecrow discovers that he already does have a brain. The tin woodsman realises that he does already have a heart. The lion possesses all he needs to be courageous. Dorothy has what it takes to change things in her own life.
- 6 When Dorothy returns to Kansas (from where she had been taken by a tornado) she says to her aunt:
 

*"Oh, Aunt Em, I've been  
to many strange and marvellous places,  
looking for something*

*that was right here all along...  
right in my own back yard!"*

7 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father, in saying  
that you have written our names  
on the palm of your hands,  
you are telling us that each person  
is unique and special to you.**

**We pray that individuals  
may discover in themselves  
the treasures you have given them,  
and develop and put to good use  
the qualities  
they hold in trust from you.**

**I pray and commit myself today  
to promote goodness and happiness,  
by treating others  
with respect  
and care and understanding.**

**May others treat me today, Father,  
in the same way as I treat them,  
and so may we all  
bring out the best in one another  
and grow in the way  
we look at ourselves and others.**

**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](http://www.prayingeachday.org)