

1 On TV in the United States, programmes and films are often interrupted by adverts. Which was the first film to be shown on American TV without any breaks for adverts? It will have been a serious film which created an atmosphere which adverts would have destroyed.

2 The film was "*Schindler's List*", about the protection of some Jewish people during the Second World War. Before reaching TV, it was first shown at the cinema, being released as a film in mid-December 1993.

3 Spielberg's film shows how a German-Czech businessman deals with Nazi leaders. Oskar Schindler bribes them, managing to protect a group of over a thousand Jews who would otherwise have been killed in a concentration camp.

4 As the war ends, a gold ring is presented to Oskar Schindler. The ring is made from the gold fillings from the mouths of some of the survivors. It is engraved with these words:

*"Whoever saves one life
saves the world entire."*

5 The picture was filmed in Kracow, using the actual factory that Schindler operated. At one point during the filming, Steven Spielberg found himself walking amongst the many "extras" - the people needed for crowd scenes. In haste, and not being able to speak their language, Spielberg realised that he was gesturing people to the right or to the left.

"I felt like a Nazi,"

he said, remembering those who ran the concentration camps who would divide people to the right or to the left as Jews arrived in cattle trucks at the concentration camps - dividing them to one side for **life**, or in the other direction for immediate **death** in the gas chambers.

6 Spielberg said that his worst days in filming were when he had to have the actors take their clothes off as they approached the gas chambers. It was humiliating and stripped the people of their human dignity.

7 *Let us pray:*

**Lord God of all people,
lead me not to judge others
or discriminate
and divide into different groups.
Inspire me to live in such a way
that I am not destructive
or negative.
Empower me with your Spirit
that I may choose wisely
and live positively
and so promote all that is life-giving.
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