

- 1 An American writer told a short story about self-sacrifice at Christmas. Two young people who were very much in love wanted to give a present to each other, but both were poor. Without telling each other, they decided what they would do.
- 2 The girl was proud of her long hair that flowed down her back. She approached a wig-maker who gave her money as long strands of her hair were cut off. Now she was able to buy her friend a present.
- 3 Meanwhile, her boyfriend sold his most precious possession - an old-fashioned watch of sentimental value, as it had been given to him by his grandfather. He, too, then bought a present.
- 4 That day, Christmas Eve, the two had arranged to meet, as usual - she with her remaining hair covered by a scarf, and he a little late because he no longer had a watch. What were their presents? She had bought him a special watch-chain so that he could hang his watch from his coat pocket! He had bought her a set of expensive combs for her long, flowing hair!
- 5 They shed tears as they appreciated the sacrifice in love that each had made - and they laughed!
- 6 *Let us pray:*

Lord Jesus,
 as we prepare to celebrate
 the gift of yourself
 to our world,
 we think too of our loved ones,
 remembering that you said
 that there is *“more joy in giving
 than in receiving.”* Acts 20³⁵

**We ask you to bless us
 and those we love.
 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