

- 1 It has been said that
*"Life can only be understood backwards,
 but it must be lived forwards."*
- 2 The end of the old year offers an opportunity to look back and be grateful. We may even see some negative things in a better light, as we look back with the advantage of time.
- 3 Let's pause to give thanks for what has been good, naming some of the people and events and circumstances of the past year...

(Pause...)

- 4 Dag Hammarskjöld, once the Secretary-General of the United Nations, said:
*"For all that has been -Thanks!
 For all that will be - Yes!"*

- 5 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,
 we give thanks
 for all that has been
 and, trustfully,
 we place the past into your hands.
 We ask you to inspire us
 in the year ahead
 to seek and fulfil your will.
 May we truly look on each new day
 as the start of the rest of our lives.
 Enable us,
 with the power of your Spirit,
 to remain positive and confident,
 and live fully and joyfully
 with those people
 you have placed into our lives.
 Lead us
 to bring out the best in one another
 that we may all grow
 as the people you call us to be.
 Amen.**

- 6 At the end of one year and the beginning of another, we appreciate that we have "moved on". Yet, in another sense, we have returned to where we started. The poet, T.S.Eliot, writes:
*"We shall not cease from exploration
 And the end of all our exploring
 Will be to arrive where we started
 And know the place for the first time."*

- 7 *Let us pray:*

**Lord, you call us
 not to get too set in our ways,
 but to be trustful and faithful,
 seeing the need
 for the on-going process
 of being renewed and re-vitalised.
 Repeatedly you call each one of us
 to be 'born again',
 to start anew,
 to 'repent',
 to review priorities
 and re-orientate
 the direction of our lives.
 Give us the fullness of your Spirit
 that we may live
 as you would have us live.
 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