

- 1 In 1564 this day saw the death of Michelangelo Buonarroti, one of the greatest artists, architects and sculptors who ever lived. He was commissioned to paint the ceiling and one of the walls in the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, Rome (the chapel in which the cardinals gather to elect a new pope). Michelangelo was the architect of part of the massive church of St Peter's, Rome, and he designed its great dome.
- 2 Michelangelo thought of himself mainly as a sculptor. Two of his most famous pieces of sculpture are 'David' (in Florence) and 'the Pieta' in St Peter's (the dead Jesus in his mother's arms).
- 3 Michelangelo often saw potential in things that others did not see. On one occasion he was seen to be studying carefully what others simply saw as a large block of marble, and someone asked him just what he was doing. He was looking at the grain of the marble and its strengths, and he said: "*I can see an angel imprisoned in the marble, and I must set it free.*" He began the long and skilled job of carving a beautiful angel out of that stone.
- 4 The story is a reminder that some people only see things as useless; others see beauty and potential.

5 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,
give us the power of your Spirit
that we may see and love in others
what you see and love in them.
We want to see the positive in people
and bring out the best in each other.
It's easy to say that,
but not always easy to live it out,
and so we ask you
to help and inspire us
to live as you would like us to live
this day.**

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