

4 JULY

- 1 On the 4th July - American Independence Day - an American spacecraft called '*Pathfinder*' landed on the planet Mars in 1997. The unmanned spacecraft was designed to bounce on landing. The craft later released a moving vehicle the size of a skateboard. It analysed the soil and atmosphere and then automatically transmitted the results back to Earth, by radio signals.
- 2 Nearly a century earlier, in 1908, the astronomer Percival Lowell announced that he had discovered canals on Mars. He said they were red and seemed to move. We realise now that there are **no** canals on Mars. The great astronomer actually had a rare eye disease - now known as Lowell's Syndrome - which made him see the red veins in his own eyes.
- 3 Lowell was so famous and such an expert in astronomy that no-one dared to contradict him. Older school atlases still show detailed maps that Lowell charted of his supposed "canals" on Mars!

4 *Let us pray:*

God our Father,

**I can think of mistakes I have made
and the attitude
that I have sometimes had.**

**May I not become so independent
that I think I know it all
and no longer need others,
but may I always
have true friends around me
who are willing
to point me in the right direction.**

**May I be ready to apologise
when things go wrong,
and be ready to learn
from my mistakes,
finding humour in my situation
and having the ability and good sense
to laugh at myself.**

**May I grow in wisdom each 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