

- 1 A fisherman had landed his catch of fish, cleaned his nets, and was resting by the water's edge, watching the sea, thinking about his day, and enjoying life.
- 2 A rich man came strolling by. He could see that the fisherman looked relaxed and peaceful, but asked him: "Why are you not working?"
- 3 The fisherman was surprised at being asked the question, and replied: "I've just finished unloading my catch for the day."
- 4 "But you've time to go out and get more fish", said the rich man.
- 5 "Why should I do that?" asked the fisherman.
- 6 "So that you can sell them and make more money", explained the rich man.
- 7 "But what would I do with the money?" asked the fisherman.
- 8 "You could buy a bigger boat," the rich man said.
- 9 "But why?" asked the fisherman.
- 10 "Obviously you could catch more fish and make even more money. Then you'd be rich," replied the rich man.
- 11 "Why would I want to be rich?" asked the poor fisherman.
- 12 "Then you'd be able to sit back and enjoy life!" remarked the rich man.
- 13 "But that's exactly what I'm doing now" said the fisherman, sitting by the water's edge.
- 14 *Let us pray:*

Lord,

**I do not want to be selfish.
I do realise how important it is
to value and appreciate myself,
and I know
that I need genuine love for myself**

if I am fully to love others.

**Remind me
of the importance
of keeping time and space and quiet
for myself,
and remind me to respect
the personal needs of others, too.**

Lord God,

**you who call me by my name,
I thank you for making me
who I am.**

Inspire me to grow

**as a genuine and sincere person
with a positive attitude,
right values,
and a generous spirit. Amen.**



Pope John Paul II has said:

"It is not wrong to want to live better; what is wrong is a style of life which is presumed to be better when it is directed towards 'having' rather than 'being'."



The Greek philosopher, Socrates (about 470-399 B.C.), looking in the market at many goods for sale, said: "How many things I have no need of."



"The person is nearest to God who needs the fewest things," said the Roman philosopher Seneca, 4B.C.- 65A.D.



"... Better deem t'have lived to be, than to have died to have."
(Samuel Daniel, 1563-1619, in 'Musophilus')



See also 1 April; 3, 12, 27 July; and the footnotes for 10 August.



Do not worry; Follow me; God's Spirit is in my heart; O Lord all the world

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