

- 1 On this day in 1918 Nelson Mandela was born. On 10th May 1994 he became the first democratically-elected President of multi-racial South Africa.
- 2 In his inaugural speech as South African President, Nelson Mandela said:

*"Our biggest fear
is not that we are inadequate;
our biggest fear
is that we are powerful
beyond measure.
It is our light, not our darkness
that most frightens us.
We ask ourselves:
'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous,
talented and fabulous'
Actually, who are you **not** to be?
You are a child of God.
Your 'playing small'
doesn't serve the world.
There is nothing enlightened
about shrinking
so that other people
won't feel insecure around you.
We are born to make manifest
the glory of God that is within us.
It's not just within some of us
- it is within **everyone!**
And as we let our own light shine,
we consciously give to other people
permission to do the same.
As we are liberated from our own fear,
our presence
automatically liberates others."*

- 3 Let us pray:

**Lord Jesus,
bring your love to our lives
in a new way today
so that any fear that we might have
is driven away,
knowing that
"perfect love casts out fear".**

**Then your light
will shine more brightly in us,
and others will be able to see
the good things that are done
in your name.
Help us to grow more aware
of the love and respect and dignity
that you give us
in calling us your "friends".
We ask that your Spirit acts in us
so that we discover
and take pride
in who we really are.
Make us credible witnesses
of your love
so that others
may more readily share
in your love and your light,
you who are the light of the world.
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