

(See also 6 April.)

- 1 The 1996 Olympics were held in Atlanta, Georgia, in the United States. One of the most memorable parts of the Opening Ceremony was that of Mohammed Ali lighting the Olympic Flame. Ali had been the greatest boxer in the world, but then developed Parkinson's Disease. At the Opening Ceremony he was seen by millions of people world-wide, uncontrollably shaking because of the disease. His willingness to appear seemed to convey to many people the true spirit and courage of "the Olympic dream". He was later awarded an honorary gold medal.
- 2 On this day at those Games in Atlanta in 1996, 18 year-old Kerry Strug was determined to help win an Olympic gold medal for her gymnast team. She had a twisted ankle but still wanted to perform her vault, so as not to let the others down. As she landed, she collapsed in pain, but she was remembered for struggling with her difficulty to achieve the gold medal for her team.
- 3 *Let us pray:*

**We pray, Lord,  
 for all who will need  
 strength and courage today:**  
 - for those who are seriously ill;  
 - for those  
 who are in desperate situations  
 and see no hope of anything different;  
 - for those who find it difficult  
 to face others or themselves;  
 - for those in pain from illness  
 or mistreatment or torture;  
 - for those who know  
 that others depend on them.  
 For all these people  
 we ask for the power of your Spirit  
 in their lives.  
 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](http://www.prayingeachday.org)