

- 1 In the 16th Century, European explorers brought to Europe some potatoes from the Andes mountain region in the country we now call Peru, in South America. One of these was Sir Walter Raleigh who was a politician in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. This is reputed to be the day in 1586 when Sir Walter Raleigh was the first to plant potatoes in Europe.
- 2 Nearly 300 years later, in 1853, an awkward customer was eating chips in a very smart restaurant in the United States. The customer complained that the chips were too thick, soggy and not salty enough, and had them sent back to the chef, George Crum, who had some thinner chips cooked for the customer. Still he didn't like them, and said that he had recently been in Paris where the chips were thinner. The customer's words "*Tell the chef to try again!*" reached George Crum and infuriated him!
- 3 In anger, he cut a potato into the thinnest slices he could make, and then soaked them in salted ice-water for 30 minutes, wanting to annoy the customer by making him wait. Then he dropped the very thin potato slices into boiling fat, and they came out crisp and golden. He took them himself to the awkward customer, who tasted them and said they were delicious!
- 4 In the cook's anger, and quite by accident, what we call "potato crisps" were discovered! The Americans call them "potato chips", as they were first cooked as chips.
- 5 *Let us pray:*

**There are times, Lord,
when we say we are hungry
but we really have no idea
what real hunger is,**

**and the desperation
that goes with it.
We even tend to waste food.
We ask you, Lord, to inspire us
to discover the real priorities in life
so that we may live simply
so that others may simply live.
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