

- 1 Charles Blondin was a French tightrope walker. On this day in 1859 he first walked across the great Niagara Falls on a tightrope that was 335 metres long (1,100 feet), and 49 metres (160 feet) above the waterfall. With a balancing pole, Charles Blondin walked across in only five minutes. He then crossed back again, blindfolded.
- 2 Next he walked across pushing a wheelbarrow. When he got to the other side with the wheelbarrow he was congratulated, and one man said to him: *“That’s superb! Wonderful!”* Blondin said to him: *“Do you believe I can walk back again with the wheelbarrow?”* “Yes,” said the man in great admiration. *“Do you believe I can walk back across the tightrope with someone in that wheelbarrow?”* Again the man said *“Yes, you can do it!”* Then Blondin asked him: *“Will **you** get into the wheelbarrow?”* - but the man refused!
- 3 The man believed firmly that Blondin **could** take a person back across the tightrope in the wheelbarrow. Believing it, wasn’t enough, because there’s a difference between ‘belief’ (“head knowledge”) and ‘faith’ (trust based on experience). He didn’t have the personal faith to trust and place himself completely in Blondin’s hands.
- 4 *Let us pray:*

**Lord, may I become more aware
of your presence in my life.
May I discover
that you do walk with me
each day of my life,
accompanying me
in darkness as well as in light,
in sadness as well as in joy.
May your Spirit lead me
to trust and come to know**

**that you keep your word
and are always faithful and loving.
I place myself and my future
into your hands. 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