

- 1 Abraham Lincoln was elected 16th President of the United States. On this day in 1861 he was sworn in as President, just as the American Civil War was about to begin. He is one of the most respected of American presidents, but he could have given up at the time of any one of his many failures and negative experiences:
- 2 In 1832 he was defeated in state elections. In 1833 he failed as a shopkeeper and was in debt.
1836 saw him have a nervous breakdown. In 1849 he was disillusioned at not being offered a government post, and he left politics for a time.
In 1855 and also in 1858 he was defeated in his wish to be elected for the U.S. Senate.
- 3 He experienced personal tragedy as three of his four children died young. On finally becoming president, he was let down by some of those he had appointed to positions of trust.

4 *Let us pray:*

Father,

into your hands I place my successes.

Into your hands

I also place my failures,

and I pray that, through your Spirit,

I may face the challenges of life

with courage and determination.

Help me to think anew

and see things more broadly

than in terms of “success”

and “failure”.

Lead me always to trust

and place myself confidently

in 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