

- 1 In Amsterdam, the capital of German-occupied Holland in the Second World War, Anne Frank and her family and four other Jews hid from the Nazis in concealed rooms in what had been her father's offices. For more than two years they were secure there, unknown to those who worked in the building, except for a friend who arranged to get food to them. They were betrayed in 1944, and all eight were sent to the death camps. Only Anne's father - Otto Frank - survived and returned.
- 2 Anne died of typhus in the concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen on this day, 12th March, 1945, aged 15. Only weeks later the camp was liberated.
- 3 Anne Frank's story is now known to millions across the world because of the diary that she kept about her innermost thoughts during those years in hiding. Her father discovered the diary on his return to their hiding-place, once the war ended. *'The Diary of Anne Frank'* has sold 25 million copies, and has been printed in over 50 languages.
- 4 This is an excerpt from Anne's diary, dated Saturday 15th July 1944:
- 5 *"It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery, and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness. I hear the ever-approaching thunder, which will destroy us, too. I can feel the suffering of millions and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come right, that this cruelty, too, will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again. In the meantime, I must*

uphold my ideals, for perhaps the time will come when I shall be able to carry them out."

- 6 Let us pause for a moment in silent prayer, thinking of all who suffer prejudice and persecution because of their race, colour, religion or political views...

(pause...)

**God our Father,
 you call each of us by name
 and you know
 the innermost thoughts
 that we keep to ourselves.
 Stay with us, day by day,
 in good times and in bad.
 Empower us with your Spirit
 that we may grow in character
 and develop a true sense of values
 and ideals
 through following Jesus,
 your Son and our Brother.
 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