

- 1 In 1972, George Lucas, a young film director, planned a film that would be called *'American Graffiti'*. Two film companies rejected it. A third turned it down but then had a change of mind. *'American Graffiti'* became one of the films that has brought in the most money at "the box office", as people bought their tickets.
- 2 Despite the great success of his first film, George Lucas had great difficulty getting financial backing from film companies for his second picture - a science-fiction film, to be called *'Star Wars'*. Half-heartedly, 'Twentieth Century Fox' risked some money in backing *'Star Wars'*, but George Lucas had to raise most of the money himself. He became almost bankrupt, but it meant that he owned the rights to the film and any sequels that might be produced.
- 3 *'Star Wars'* opened in the cinemas in this month in 1977 and, in its first year, the film brought in 300 million dollars in the United States alone. Its sequel - *'The Empire Strikes Back'* - earned 200 million dollars in its first year.
- 4 Film and computer technology has improved greatly since *'Star Wars'* was first produced in 1977. The re-release of the newly-edited film twenty years later in 1997 with new computer-generated images, began to bring in even more money. Many viewers went to see *'Star Wars'* at the cinema for the first time.
- 5 The great success of *'Star Wars'* is a reminder of the ideals and vision of individuals, and a reminder that our judgments are not always correct. We are also reminded of the need for us all to have faith in ourselves.

6 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father, open our eyes  
to see the vision  
that you have for each of us,  
and lead us to grow in confidence  
in who we are,  
and in the faith  
that you call each of us by name.  
Show us how to live in such a way  
that we respect and accept others  
for who they are,  
and do not judge them  
as we ourselves  
do not want to be judged.  
Inspire us to be generous  
in praising others  
and in showing appreciation  
for their achievements.  
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)