

- 1 On this day in 1994 Nelson Mandela was sworn in as the first black President of South Africa. The year before, he and the then President (F.W. de Clerk) jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to establish democracy and racial harmony in their country.
- 2 Nelson Mandela was elected President 4 years after being released from 27 years' captivity in prison. Two years after his election, Nelson Mandela made a State Visit to Britain. In her Christmas broadcast that year, Queen Elizabeth commented that President Mandela was an inspiration to many people, showing how we can all accept the facts of the past without bitterness, and learn to see new opportunities as more important than differences and disputes of the past.
- 3 *Let us pray:*

**We know, Lord,
that throughout our lives
each of us will experience
problems and difficulties.
Give us courage and strength
at those times
and prevent us then
from looking only at ourselves.
Keep our vision wide
so that, even in times of difficulty,
we may still be of help to others.
Help us not to be bitter
towards people or situations,
but empower us
to take the initiative
and break the cycle
of hatred, bitterness,
and evil actions.
Help us to transform
the difficulties that come our way
into opportunities for
personal growth
and service of others. 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