

- 1 In the 1980s, the Headteacher of a school in Boston in the United States wrote a letter to new teachers who joined the school each year. In her letter, she mentioned that she is a victim of a Nazi concentration camp. There she saw how some people had mis-used the good education they had received:
- 2 - highly-qualified engineers had built gas chambers;
- 3 - educated doctors experimented on children;
- 4 - trained nurses killed babies;
- 5 - some of those who did well at school and university then gassed men, women and children, and burned their bodies in huge ovens.
- 6 This headteacher said that she is suspicious of education because she has seen some highly-educated people behave in a most inhumane way. In her letter to new teachers she reminds them that **real education is to make young people more human.**
- 7 During the Second World War, Adolf Eichmann had been in charge of what was called "*The Final Solution*" of the Jews - the murder of all Jews throughout Europe. Eichmann escaped from Germany at the end of the War, and hid in Argentina until Israeli agents captured him in 1960 and took him to Israel. There he was placed on trial. Many people commented on how ordinary a person he looked - they had thought he would somehow look evil. He denied responsibility for what he had done, saying that he was only following orders. He was convicted of "*Crimes against Humanity*", and was executed two days later on this day, 31st May, in 1962.

8 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,**

**I pray that I may live in such a way  
that I choose wisely each day,  
and take responsibility  
for the choices that I make.**

**Inspire me to use for good  
my education**

**and all the challenges  
that I will face,**

**that I may grow more fully human,  
and do good to those around me.**

**Teach me to discern good from evil  
that I may grow**

**in integrity of character  
and develop a true sense of values  
through following Jesus,  
your Son and our Brother. Amen.**

Real education is to make people more human.
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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)