

1 Two trapeze artists were interviewed. They said that there has to be the greatest of trust between the one who flies through the air and the one who catches.

2 We might think that it is the flier who grabs the one who is hanging from the trapeze but, that way, the wrists of either of them could be broken. Instead, it is for the flier to stretch out his arms and place complete trust in the catcher, who will grab him with split-second timing. The flyer has to fly, and the catcher has to catch, bringing his partner to safety.

3 "I place myself into your hands, Father," were the words of Jesus as he lay dying on the cross.

4 *'Dying is trusting in the Catcher! Caring for the dying is saying: "Don't be afraid! Remember that you are a beloved son or daughter of God. He will be there when you make your long jump... Don't try to catch him, he will grab you... Just stretch out your arms and hands, and trust... trust... trust..."'*

5 Let us pray:

**Help us to grow in trust, Father,
and place ourselves
into your hands,
both now
and at the time of our death.
Amen.**



 *If thought more appropriate on the particular occasion, the words "both now and at the time of our death" could be omitted. An alternative prayer:*

**Help me to grow in trust, Father,
so that I can more readily
place myself into your hands,
confident that all shall be well.
Amen.**

 *Ps (50) 31⁶: "Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit." Jesus' words on the cross are found in Luke 23⁴⁶.*

 "I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."
- Martin Luther

 *The quote that is the final paragraph above is from 'Our Greatest Gift: a Meditation on Dying and Caring' by Henri Nouwen (Hodder & Stoughton, 1994).*

 *The Parable of the Prodigal Son is found in Luke 15¹¹⁻³². Jesus invites us to live the relationship that God the Father offers. In the moving story, the father is already looking out for the son, and takes the initiative in running towards his son, clasping him in his arms with a warm embrace, kissing him tenderly. Another book by Henri Nouwen is 'The Return of the Prodigal Son', in which he reflects in a very touching way on this parable in the light of Rembrandt's glowing painting of the same name.*

 *See also the quote of Julian of Norwich on 1 December.*

 Do not worry ("leave it in the hands of the Lord"); Father, in my life I see ("you hold my life in your hands"); Father, I place into your hands; Take my hands

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.

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the prayer and education website
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