

- 1 Tomorrow, 4th October, marks the anniversary in 1957 of the launching into earth's orbit of the first satellite. The Soviet Union's "*Sputnik 1*" transmitted radio waves that could be picked up on earth as a beeping sound. The satellite was only 58 cm (*23 inches*) in diameter. It orbited the Earth every 96 minutes.
- 2 Its four antennae sent information back to Earth about the temperature and density of the outer atmosphere. After 3 months in orbit, "*Sputnik*" fell back into the atmosphere, burning up on re-entry.
- 3 The satellite's name, "*Sputnik*", is Russian for "*fellow-traveller*". Its launch in 1957 was a great achievement, having a huge impact throughout the world. Rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States started the "*Space Race*", culminating in the landing on the Moon by the United States in July 1969.
- 4 *Let us pray:*

Creator God,

**we thank you for the creative skills
of all human beings,
made as we are
in your image and likeness.**

Inspire us to use our skills

**for the benefit
of all our brothers and sisters
- working not in competition
with others
but as "fellow-travellers"
who share the same journey.
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