

- 1 In 1938 it was clear to many people that war with Germany and with Japan was fast approaching. Even in the distant United States, many were fearful that their country would be drawn into war.
- 2 As many people shared that sense of anxiety, it was on this day in 1938 - before the advent of TV - that a broadcast went out on the radio in the United States. The broadcast included the sounds of panicking and attack, with police sirens and explosions and army gunfire.
- 3 On the radio, people heard the start of this broadcast as a newscaster suddenly stopped some music that was playing, and said: *"We interrupt this programme as we go over live to our reporter at the scene of the landing of the spacecraft from Mars."*
- 4 All of this was, in fact, a superb radio drama of a science-fiction book called *"The War of the Worlds"* by H.G. Wells. The brilliant 23-year-old director of the play was Orson Welles. The broadcasting of the drama had to be genuinely interrupted because police switchboards were jammed by people phoning in, thinking that the very real-like drama was, in fact, real! Thousands of people in New York and nearby towns panicked, jamming the roads, desperate to escape the destruction brought about by the Martians who were fast approaching them, according to the radio report!
- 5 Orson Welles went on to become a world-famous film director.
- 6 *Let us pray:*
**Lord God,
when difficulties surround us,
help us to keep a sense of balance,
and stay peaceful within.
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