

- 1 On this day in 1987, 70 countries signed up to an agreement to curb the production of industrial gases that are damaging the ozone layer, 10-15 miles above the Earth in the upper atmosphere. Ozone - O₃ - is formed from three oxygen atoms linking together, instead of the usual two that make the oxygen that we need to breathe - O₂ .
- 2 The ozone layer absorbs ultra-violet radiation from the sun. Otherwise, ultra-violet light would increase skin cancer and also cause further changes in the earth's weather.
- 3 In 1984 scientists discovered a large "hole" in the ozone layer above the Antarctic. It is thought that this destruction is caused by our use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which rise into the atmosphere and then react with the ozone, so letting through the dangerous rays from the sun. CFCs have been used until recently as the cooling gas (such as Freon) in refrigerator piping, and as the propellant gas in aerosol sprays.
- 4 *Let us pray, giving thanks for the goodness of creation:*
**God our Father,
 we thank you for this earth, our home;
 for the wide sky and the blessed sun,
 for the salt, earth and the running water,
 for the everlasting hills
 and the never-resting winds,
 for trees
 and the common grass underfoot.**
- 5 **We thank you for our senses
 by which we *hear* the songs of birds,
 and *see* the splendour
 of the summer fields,
 and *taste* of the autumn fruits,
 and rejoice in the *feel* of the snow,
 and *smell* the breath of the spring.**
- 6 **Grant us hearts that are wide open
 to all this beauty;
 and save us from being so blind
 that we pass unseeing
 when even the common thornbush
 is aflame with your glory,
 O God, our Creator. 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