

- 1 There was a standing ovation at the 'Oscar' ceremonies in 1996 for the wheelchair-bound actor Christopher Reeve, who was born on this day in 1952.
- 2 The touching tribute was made to Christopher Reeve for his courage, having been paralysed from the neck down since a fall from a horse the year before, when he was aged 43. He is well-known for playing the part of 'Superman' in various films, and he was a role-model of an active and healthy man.
- 3 Some months after his disabling accident, Christopher Reeve stated that "*laughter has the power to restore life*". A newspaper commented that he has been determined to set his disability aside and still aim to live life to the full. The newspaper wrote these words:
 - 4 "*Christopher Reeve - Superman - will never resume his old role but, when he shares of himself as he **now** is, on a million TV screens, then he will be facing the greatest challenge we can imagine - and then he really will be a 'super-man'.*"
- 5 *Let us pray:*
**God our Father,
 we bring before you today
 those who suffer
 from chronic illness or disability
 - those for whom sickness or disability
 profoundly affects their lives.**
- 6 **When they feel diminished,
 remind them that you call them by name
 and hold them
 in the palm of your hand.** *Is 43¹*
- 7 **When they feel fragile and broken,
 mould them and heal them,
 that they may more closely resemble
 the image of Jesus,
 your Son and our Brother.**
- 8 **When they are reminded
 of different times in the past,
 lead them to grow in the faith
 that you love them today, as they are,
 in the reality of their lives this day.**
- 9 **When they feel uncertain
 about the future,
 lead them to that perfect love
 which casts out all fear.** *1 John 4¹⁸*
- 10 **When situations remind them
 - not of what they *can* do,
 but of what they *cannot* do -
 remind them
 that "love never fails", *1 Cor 13⁸*
 and that, living in your love,
 they will bear your fruit in plenty. *Jn 15^{5,9}***
- 11 **May all of us
 - whatever our circumstances -
 never be so taken up
 with our own concerns
 that we do not see or respond to
 the needs of others.
 May we live with courage
 the different challenges
 that each of us faces.
 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