

- 1 Late one evening, Percy Shaw was driving through the countryside by car from Bradford to Halifax in Yorkshire. There were no lights along the road. Suddenly the light from his headlights was reflected back to him from the eyes of a cat, sitting on a fence. Without that cat he would not have realised there was a bend in the road, and would have driven into the fence, and probably down the steep hillside beyond. The reflection from the cat's eyes saved him from serious injury or from death.
- 2 Could he make use of what happened to him to benefit others? He spent a year trying to invent something that could guide drivers in the dark and in the fog. He set two glass prisms back-to-back in a rubber base, each with a mirror made of aluminium. They were good at reflecting a car's own light back to the driver.
- 3 His "cat's eyes" (as he called them) soon became dirty in the middle of the road, and he realised that, if they were still to reflect light back, somehow they would have to clean themselves. He added a spring to the rubber base of each glass prism. When cars ran over the "cat's eyes", now they would be pressed down against a rubber pad, and so be wiped clean
- 4 On this day in 1934 Percy Shaw laid the first set of fifty "cat's eyes" (at his own expense) along a stretch of road near Bradford that had a bad reputation for accidents. Once the Ministry of Transport realised that the number of accidents there dropped considerably, they approved his idea.
- 5 Percy Shaw's invention - still called "cat's eyes" - have saved the lives of many, and have made it much easier and safer to drive cars. Percy Shaw had seen that something needed to be done, and got on with it.

6 *Let us pray:*

Lord, we ask

**that we may have the vision
to see when something is not right
and then try to do something
about it:**

- that we may notice

**when someone is unhappy
or isn't well,**

and set out to encourage them;

- that we may notice

**when someone feels left out,
and then do what we can**

to help them feel part of things;

- that we may notice

**when something needs to be done,
and then get on with it.**

Lord, we ask that we may notice

all that is around us,

**and live in a positive
and cheerful way.**

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