FEBRUARY 5

1 Henry Thoreau is best remembered as a philosopher - one who explores the meaning of life and the values to live by. He was from the United States. In the mid-1800s he made a decision to be prepared to go to jail for refusing to pay a tax which went to support a war with Mexico. It was his view that the war with Mexico was a means of extending slavery further south. A friend of Thoreau (another philosopher and writer), Ralph Waldo Emerson (who also hated slavery) visited him in jail, saying:

"Henry, why are you here in jail?" Thoreau replied, *"Why are you not here in jail?"*

- 2 Thoreau wrote: "Under a government which imprisons anyone unjustly, the true place for a just person is in prison."
- 3 Thoreau discussed and wrote about "passive resistance", a method of protest that the Indian leader Gandhi later adopted against British rule in his country. "Passive resistance" was also used by civil rights activists (such as Martin Luther King in the USA) in the 1960s.
- 4 Let us pray in the words of Saint Ignatius:

Teach us, good Lord, to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and to ask for no reward, save that of knowing that we do your will. 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