14 JUNE

- 1 The Guinness Book of Records mentions that in 1869 the Territory of Wyoming in the U.S.A. was the first law-making body to give the vote to women. That was followed by the Isle of Man in 1881. The first country to give votes to women was New Zealand in 1893.
- 2 Emmeline Pankhurst led the movement in Britain to give the vote to women. It was called the Suffragette Movement. Public meetings and public marches did not seem to advance their cause, and some members took to action that landed them in prison. Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia were among those who broke windows so as to be arrested for criminal damage. They saw this as a way of keeping in the public eye the cause of votes for women.
- 3 Other Suffragettes chained themselves to railings and interrupted political meetings. The home of a senior politician, Lloyd George, was bombed. One woman, Emily Dickinson, was killed as she threw herself under the king's horse at the Derby horse race in 1913.
- 4 When the First World War started, the Suffragette Movement called off their action. As men went off to war, women took on most of the jobs that the men had been doing. It has been argued that women's actions during the war advanced their cause far more than did the violence. As the War ended in 1918, women over 30 were given the right to vote.
- 5 On this day in 1928 Emmeline Pankhurst died, a few weeks after full voting rights were given to women.

Let us pray for all who are not given equal opportunities.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who are treated unfairly today, who do not experience justice.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.

Let us pray for a growing awareness of the dignity of each person we will meet today, that we may have as much respect for others as we would like them to have for us

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.

Let us pray for a change of heart in those who abuse others or take advantage of them; those who take people for granted; those who look down on other people; and those who are selfish.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.

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