

1 In 1990, the Hubble Telescope was launched into orbit 373 miles (600 km) above the earth's surface. The telescope observes distant space without interference from the atmosphere or light in the sky from cities. Signals beamed down from Hubble show objects far more clearly than seen before, viewing seven times further away than can telescopes on the Earth itself.

2 On this day in 1997, newspapers reported that the Hubble Telescope had detected a star that is brighter than 10 million suns, giving out as much energy in 6 seconds as our sun does in a year. It has been called "the Pistol Star" and is in our own galaxy - our own gathering of stars. It is about 25,000 light-years away from us - in other words it takes light 25,000 years to reach us from there. We therefore see it as it was 25,000 years ago.

3 If this star was placed where our sun is, its diameter is so great that it would extend far beyond Earth's orbit, to about that of Mars.

4 *Let us reflect and pray
about our ordinary vision,
and our vision
through telescopes and microscopes:*

5 **God our Father,
may the vastness of your creation
that we can begin to see
through a telescope,
remind us of the abundance
of your love.**
**May the lowliness
of the smallest creatures and cells
that we can see through a microscope,
remind us
of how insignificant - yet special -
we appear to be.**
**May our vision each day
of the world around us**

**remind us that you so loved the world
that you sent Jesus, your Son,
to be one of us.**

**In all that we observe,
open our eyes
so that we may really see
and grow in wonder and appreciation.
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