

9 AUGUST

(See also 31 May.)

- 1 The following words are on display in a public place. Many thousands of people have read them:

*“Obedience, honesty,
order, cleanliness,
truthfulness, sacrifice,
and love of one’s country.”*

- 2 They are fine qualities and values for a person to have and develop, and the words are intended to inspire the readers. Where are they written?

- 3 They form the inscription on the ceiling of one of the administration buildings in Dachau, the Nazi concentration camp, near Munich. Prisoners were to read these words frequently. It is good, of course, to develop such values as are listed, but there is something “twisted” and horrific when we remember where it is that these words are seen:

- 4 *“Obedience, honesty,
order, cleanliness,
truthfulness, sacrifice,
and love of one’s country.”*

- 5 In silence I can try to imagine myself there as an inmate at Dachau, reading those words whilst thinking of what was going on in that terrible place. I can also try to think of what might encourage me there.

(pause...)

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