

- 1 As Alfred Nobel read the newspaper one morning, he saw his own obituary printed - his own death notice! Whilst a journalist had obviously made an error, Nobel was quite shaken by what he read - not simply because others would think he had died, but because what was written about him seemed to give a false picture of who he was. The newspaper sensationalised that he was "*The Dynamite King*".
- 2 His younger brother and four others had been killed in a factory explosion whilst handling nitro-glycerine. Alfred Nobel had set about making the explosive much more safe to handle by having it in solid form, which he called 'dynamite'. His hope was that his discovery would put an end to war. He wrote - hopefully - that:
*"On the day two army groups
 realise that (with dynamite)
 they can annihilate each other
 in one second,
 all civilised nations
 will recoil from war in horror."*
- 3 Having read his obituary and realising that his good intentions for peace and understanding were not even mentioned, Nobel decided he would invest for a good purpose the fortune that he had made from his invention of dynamite. When he died on this day in 1896, his Will stated that most of his fortune was to be placed in trust. The interest on that money would fund annual prizes
*"to those who, in the preceding year,
 shall have conferred the greatest benefit
 upon mankind."*
- 4 On this day each year (the anniversary of his death) the Prizes are presented by the King of Sweden in Stockholm, the city where Alfred Nobel was born. The

Nobel Prizes are among the most highly-regarded honours anyone can receive. Winners are given a gold medal and a diploma, as well as a large cash award. People are named for contributions in six categories: Chemistry, Economics, Literature, Peace, Physics, and Medicine.

5 *Let us pray:*

**Lord,
 you have enriched our lives
 in many ways,
 and we are grateful
 for all who have influenced our lives
 for the better.**

**Show us how best
 to use the time and talents
 you have given each one of us,
 and inspire us to live fully
 and bring benefit
 to our own part of the world.**

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