

1 This was the birthday in 1874 of Ernest Shackleton, who would become an explorer of the South Pole. In the London *'Times'* newspaper, Shackleton printed a small advertisement:

2 *"Men wanted for hazardous journey.  
Small wages, bitter cold,  
long months of complete darkness,  
constant danger, safe return doubtful.  
Honour and recognition  
in case of success."*

3 5,000 people replied to the advertisement, and Sir Ernest Shackleton selected 27 to join him in his exploration of Antarctica, the South Pole.

4 Let's pause for a moment to think why it might have been that so many replied to that advertisement.

*(pause...)*

5 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,  
there are many difficulties  
and challenges in life,  
and we see or experience  
more of them  
each day we live.**

**Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may have courage and  
determination,  
and may live in such a way  
that we encourage one another.**

**Enable us to transform  
whatever is negative,  
and remain positive in attitude  
throughout our lives.**

**Lighten our darkness  
and keep us safe. 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](http://www.prayingeachday.org)