

1 Having defeated Napoleon in 1815 at the Battle of Waterloo, it was on this day in 1827, that the Duke of Wellington was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British Army.

2 After defeating Napoleon, Wellington heard someone say that war was glorious. His reply was:

*“Take my word for it:
if you had seen but one day of war,
you would pray to Almighty God
that you might never see such again.”*

3 On one occasion a deserter from the army was brought before him. Wellington was about to pronounce the death sentence on him, and said:

*“I am extremely sorry
to pass this severe sentence,
but we have tried everything,
and all the discipline and penalties
have failed to improve this man
who is otherwise a brave and good soldier.”*

4 Then the Duke of Wellington invited his fellow-soldiers to speak on his behalf. One of them said:

*“Sir, there is one thing you have not tried.
You have not tried forgiving him.”*

Wellington was struck by these words and told the deserter that he was forgiven. Never again did the soldier desert, and he always showed his appreciation to the Duke.

5. *Let’s pray in silence for a moment for someone whom I need to forgive, or for someone who has forgiven me...*

(pause)

6. *Let us pray:*

**Father,
I ask you
to help me to be generous
when I think
of the attitude and actions of others.**

**Forgiving someone
isn’t an easy option,
and I know that forgiveness
isn’t somehow pretending
that something wrong
hasn’t happened.**

**For what I have done wrong,
forgive me Father,
to the extent
that I am generous in forgiving -
or hoping to forgive -
those who have done wrong to me.**

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