

- 1 In the 1930s John Dillinger escaped from prison in the United States, having been found guilty of murder and robbery. The F.B.I. identified him as “Public Enemy Number One”.
- 2 Knowing that the police and the F.B.I. had records of his fingerprints, he thought he would set about getting new fingerprints so that his presence would not be detected in future. He dipped his fingers and thumbs into a bowl of acid, and went through great pain until new skin grew. After a few weeks, Dillinger tested his new fingerprints - only to find that they were identical to his old ones.

3 No-one else will ever have the same fingerprints as me. Fingerprints are a sign that each person is unique and individual.

4 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,  
 you made each of us  
 unique and unrepeatable.  
 Inspire me to live in such a way  
 that I respect others  
 and am ready to learn  
 from all who are part of my life  
 this day.  
 Amen.**



 *Oil or perspiration on the ridges that form fingerprints is often transferred as a person touches something. The use of chemicals such as gold particles, and laser treatment, can even highlight faint fingerprints that are a few years old. The 4 main fingerprint types are arch, loop, whorl, and composite. In November 1997, instead of continuing with prisoners giving their fingerprints by using ink, some British police forces adopted laser technology in scanning the fingers of people who have been arrested.*

 *“Genetic fingerprinting” is based on the unique DNA “profile” of an individual and, of course, has nothing to do with “fingerprinting” itself.*

 *Pope John Paul II has said:*  
 “Before God,  
 each human being  
 is always unique and unrepeatable,  
 somebody thought of and chosen  
 from eternity.”

 *Isaac Newton said:*  
 “In the absence of any other proof,  
 the thumb alone would convince me  
 of God’s existence.”

 I give my hands; I will never forget you;  
 Take my hands

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)