

1 When the three Apollo 11 astronauts returned to Earth after their moon landing in 1969, many nations wanted to welcome them. Neil Armstrong, Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin and Michael Collins made a tour of many countries. Arriving in Italy they also visited the Pope in Rome.

2 Pope Paul VI (*the sixth*) presented them with porcelain statues of the Three Wise Men who had followed the star to find Jesus in Bethlehem. Buzz Aldrin later said that this was one of the most moving moments of their 23-nation tour, as Pope Paul compared them with the Three Wise Men who visited Jesus at his birth, saying that the three astronauts, too, had reached their destination by following the stars that they could see. For the astronauts, it was only by focusing on certain stars that the computer’s navigation system and the gyroscopes could lead them to their destiny.

3 Some schools have a star as part of their uniform badge. The star can be a sign of faith, representing the vision of the Wise Men who followed God’s sign and discovered the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

4 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,
the star of Bethlehem
was a sign of faith
for the Wise Men,
and their faith led them
to discover the newly-born Jesus
in Bethlehem.**

**May we grow in faith
and discover Jesus
in our daily lives.**

**Lord, hear us
*Lord, graciously hear us.***

**5 Thousands of people worked together
to enable the astronauts
to land on the moon.**

**May we grow in our appreciation
for all who are part of our lives.**

**Lord, hear us
*Lord, graciously hear us.***

**6 The Wise Men
had a sense of vision and purpose
- and so did the astronauts.**

**Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may share your vision
of individuals and of our world.**

**Lord, hear us
*Lord, graciously hear us.***

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