A World Cup football match was held on this day in 1969 between two countries of Central America. A late penalty was awarded by the referee to El Salvador, against the neighbouring country of Honduras. El Salvador scored from the late penalty, and won the match 3-2. People had become so involved in supporting their national teams that wild riots started in both countries. Opposition fans in each country were beaten up, and looting took place.

Six days later - as a direct result of the football match - war broke out between the two countries. Before the war came to an end, two thousand soldiers were killed, and both El Salvador and Honduras suffered severe food shortages.

Let us pray:

Lord, there are many places
in our world
where some people do not respect
the background and traditions
and culture of others.
We know that prejudice
can turn to hatred
and even to murder,
and such things often start
in simple ways.
Lead us to live in such a way
that our first reaction
is to think good of people,
focussing on the positive
before we ever see the negative.
Amen.

Having beaten Honduras in that round of the World Cup, El Salvador was eliminated in the next round.

Words by Grantland Rice, 1880-1954:
“For when the One Great Scorer comes
To write against your name,
He marks - not that you won or lost -
But how you played the game.”

Come let us go up to the Lord; If I am lacking love; Lord make me a means; Make me a channel; O Lord, all the world; This is what Yahweh asks of you
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