

- 1 William Penn was born in England in 1644. He was a member of the 'Quakers', 'The Society of Friends'. A focus of their form of Christianity is the equality of everyone. They live simply, and they refuse to fight.
- 2 At a time when Britain still governed North America, William Penn was granted land by King Charles II (*the second*), in return for a large sum of money owed him by the king. It was a great forested area called "Sylvania" after the Latin name for a wood. The king insisted that Penn add his own name, and the colony (now one of the United States of America) became known as "Pennsylvania".
- 3 Penn and his followers were empowered by the king to fight and make war against those considered to be "Indian savages", but to fight would have been against their religion. Penn refused to build any forts or fight against the Native Americans. Nor would he have any soldiers in the colony. People who weren't Quakers soon said that they would be slaughtered by the Native American tribes. Instead the Quakers began to build their town, calling it "Philadelphia", from Greek words meaning "the city of brotherly love". Both communities of people made friends with each other. They agreed that, if any problems arose, they should sort them out at a meeting of equal numbers of Native Americans and British settlers. Both groups of people lived in equality, sharing the same rights. When William Penn died, he was mourned by them all.
- 4 Pennsylvania remained free from attack as long as the settlers did not arm themselves. Once the Quakers were outvoted in the State, and forts were built and men trained as soldiers - only then were they attacked.

5 *Let's pray*
in the words of St Francis of Assisi:

**Lord, make me an instrument
of your peace:
where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning
that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life.**

Amen.



 *See 13 March for an alternative prayer.*

 *Those who used to be called 'Indians' are often now known as 'Native Americans'. The film, "Dances with Wolves", starring Kevin Costner, tells of the Native Americans being exploited and then killed by the white soldiers.*

 *William Penn was born in London, 14/10/1644; he died in Buckinghamshire, England, 30/7/1718.*

 *See the notes on 24 January regarding Quakers.*

 *John 14²⁷ - my peace I give you; a peace the world cannot give.*

 Come, let us go up to the Lord; Lord, make me a means; Make me a channel

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