

- 1 In an article in the 'Observer' newspaper in 1992, it was stated that Britain had enough wheat and barley lying unused in government-funded storage to feed the starving country of Somalia in Africa for more than a year.
- 2 Farmers are subsidised to grow food; some farmers are subsidised not to grow food - on what is called "set-aside" land. The European Union's "food mountains" (as they are sometimes called) include grain, milk powder, butter, wine, and meat. Money is paid to keep these products in storage. Because they are not used, the price of food is kept high.
- 3 The European Union has so much wheat in storage that a newspaper calculated that, if baked into bread, all that wheat could form a single slice of bread 1000 miles wide by 1000 miles long, covering all of Europe!
- 4 *Let us pray for the needy and hungry of our world:*

God our Father,
we think of the beauty of the world
which you proclaimed to be good,
but we are also conscious
of our misuse
of what you have given to us.

Our governments
spend money in our name
maintaining "butter mountains"
and "wine lakes",
and we subsidise farmers
to "set aside" land
so that less food is produced
- even though
our brothers and sisters
die each day from hunger.

On our paper money
we print the images
of famous people,
yet often do not treasure and uphold

the dignity of all who are made
in your image and likeness.

- 5 **Open our hearts**
to be influenced for good,
and inspire us
to touch the hearts of others.
Enable us to change the things
that contradict your love,
and may all your people
work and grow together
as brothers and sisters.
Amen.

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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