

(See also 4 January)

- 1 Today many people use a word-processor to produce letters, essays and documents. If we lose what we've produced, we can always create another copy from the computer disc. Photocopiers, too, are used to provide back-up copies.
- 2 Many of the world's great writers such as Shakespeare had no easy way of copying or even altering texts - nor did the great scientist, Sir Isaac Newton, who died on this day in 1727.
- 3 Isaac Newton worked hard and spent some years producing a book. When it was almost finished, he put all his handwritten pages into one pile, and then left the room to get something to eat. After a while he began to smell burning. Rushing back into the room, he saw that his faithful dog, Diamond, had knocked over the candle beside which Newton had been working. Most of the pages of his book were destroyed. What did Newton do? He simply patted his dog, and said: "*Diamond, you don't know what trouble you've caused me, but you know no better.*" The following day he started the long process of writing his book all over again.
- 4 *Let us pray:*

**Lord, I pray for gifts and talents  
that will help me and other people.**

**As I pray for these gifts**

**I know, too,**

**that I will need to work hard  
at developing them**

**- to become more patient,**

**- to grow in wisdom,**

**- and to be faithful in friendship.**

**May I be as faithful to others**

**as you are to me.**

**Amen.**

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)