

- 1 Today is “**United Nations Day**”, being the day on which the UN was established in 1945, after the world had seen what total war could do.
- 2 At the inaugural session of the United Nations in 1945 at the end of the Second World War, Britain’s Prime Minister - Clement Attlee - stated that

*“It is for the peoples of the world to make their choice between life and death.”*

- 3 We know that “peace” isn’t simply the “absence of war”, and so the UN seeks to promote good relationships between people and countries. The UN’s choices for “life” include working
  - for refugees,
  - in health care,
  - in the growing of food, and
  - in promoting science and culture.

- 4 A passage in one of the first books of the Bible has God speaking these words about “*choosing life*”:

*“I set before you  
life or death,  
blessing or curse.  
Choose life, then,  
so that you and your descendants  
may live in my love.”*

*(Deut 30<sup>19-20</sup>)*

- 5 *Let us pray about “choosing life” in our own daily circumstances:*

**God our Father,  
peace in our world  
begins with the attitude and actions  
of individual people.**

**We pray  
that we may live in such a way  
that we are positive in our attitude,  
choosing “life”  
in the small events of this day**

**- rather than choosing “death”  
that comes from a negative attitude  
of criticism and finding fault,  
of doing others down  
and being miserable.**

**In choosing  
“life” rather than “death”,  
living positively and cheerfully,  
may we bring life to others.  
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)