

Thought for the Day - Tuesday 9th February 2021

By Maggie Marshall.

Day Michel Quoist

Michel Quoist served as a pastor in a busy city parish in Le Havre in France in the 50's, with an interest in the youth and the poor. Back when I was a teenager I remember reading his book 'Prayers of life' and these prayers and meditations helped me in my Christian life as a teenager. I still go back to read these meditations over the years. Michel said in his book 'they are meditations on life, and should help Christians to discover the riches of a contact with God arising from the daily events of their existence'.

Green Blackboards

The school is up to date

Proudly, the principal tells of all the improvements.

The finest discovery, Lord, the green blackboard.

The scientists have studied long, they have made experiments;

We know now that green is the ideal colour, that it doesn't tire the eyes, that it is quieting and relaxing.

It has occurred to me Lord, that you didn't wait so long to paint the trees and the meadows green. Your research laboratories were efficient, and in order not to tire us, you perfected a number of shades of green for your modern meadows.

And so the 'finds' of men consist in discovering what you have known from time immemorial.

Thank you, Lord for being the good Father who gives his children the joy of discovering by themselves the treasures of his intelligence and love.

But keep us from believing that – by ourselves – we have invented anything at all

Remember that these prayers were written 60 years ago. I remember training to be a teacher that 'blackboards/chalk boards were changing to green roller boards on stands which gave you more surfaces to write on.

God had already set the setting of 'green' in his creation of the world.

This meditation came back to me as we were thinking of prayers for children in primary and secondary schools through the C of E 'Prayers for the Nation' this week.

We pray for our schools at this time as they continue to work through the internet and in person in the classroom, on TV and by telephone. We pray for good internet connections. We give thanks for the commitment of all staff working in schools. We pray for parents coping with the current situations, supporting their children while continuing with their own work.

'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you'.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16 - 18