

21.6.73

Dufay: Sicut Populi
RHM. VANG. 157

PREFACE of EUCHARIST

As you might have noticed from a series of articles that's been running in one of the papers this week, it's just 10 yrs ago that the present Pope, Paul VI, was elected and took up office; 10 yrs since the death of the beloved Pope John, and the turning-point he initiated in the modern history of the Church. That was the second Vatican Council: but if you thought it did everything that needed to be done, Pope Paul has just recently announced another period of renewal, the Holy Year to be kept in 1975 the preparation for which he called for to begin at Pentecost this year. No, it's not a throw-back to any pomp or ceremony of 25 yrs ago and the last Holy Year — his call is for repentance: to turn to God: to seek reconciliation with God and with all men: to renew the life that is within us: to unite ourselves through Christ and in Christ, that in unity we may approach the Father. The Pope has pointed out that the very idea of a Holy Year is alien to the spirit of the time we live in. Our age may not want a Holy Year of repentance and reconciliation, but it certainly needs one. However different the religious 'atmosphere' of today is from the time of Pope John, it is basically the same message that Pope Paul is giving us now. The Council of Pope John was for reform and change in the Church: Pope Paul's Holy Year has the same purpose, this time perhaps more personally directed to each of us in our interior lives. Unlike previous Holy Years, his intention is that this one be prepared for throughout

the Church in the world by a deeper renewal of the inner life of the Church wherever it is, and this is to culminate in the celebration of Pentecost and renewed vision of the Holy Spirit in the Church at Rome in June two years hence. Holy Years have been times of pilgrimage to Rome: but these days, with travel so easy, the pilgrimage idea has tended to get lost in the mechanisations of the tourist trade. Anyone can go to Rome: the Pope's idea is that those who do so in 1975 should be going in a spirit of repentance & reconciliation, as representatives of their local churches in which there has been a true renewal of spirit. This time of preparing (which like the anti-litter & anti-crime campaigns we have here in HK isn't supposed to be just a fad in the past but still that continues on after the "campaign" part has ended off) this time is a reminder that we are really always on pilgrimage: we belong to a Pilgrim Church which is on its way, pointing the way, to truths & facts the world around us isn't usually too anxious to know about. Each of us needs to get it clear to ourselves where we're supposed to be going, to stand apart in some sense from involvement in the present contentment of the world we live in. There are signs, for instance in the present concern about conservation and the future quality of life, that people are beginning to realize the limitations of our world, of material progress, prosperity and happiness: that there is still else that's being overlooked. Christians who're told they're expected to be the salt of the earth, a leaven in the mass, have a witness to give, a message of love to spread. That won't be done only by word of mouth, but by the depth & quality of their Christian lives and love for Christ & their fellowmen. This is what we've got to renew and strengthen all the time: for this Holy Year to come, we're now asked to do it now.

Think about it, listening to a little more of the music I began with, Giovanni Dufay's "Sicut Populi"
"Populi"

→ NP 195 p 3

the trad. day 1
Today, as I said, in Corpus Christi, St. we keep on Sunday next.