

Il est né (Jouez
Housteaux) Peace and God's grace to you in the ^{new} year now beginning. As it's still
Christmastime for us until we celebrate Epiphany this coming Sunday, I'd like
to go back to sth. I remarked on in the programme on Christmas Eve — about an
unusual Christmas card I once received, which expressed the meaning of this time very well,
and movingly. It's still seasonal and I think fits nicely also into this first Midday
Prayer from me for 1974. It's simply a letter written by an Italian monk in the 16th C.,
long before our modern popular Christmas cards: the English version of it I have here is
attributed to a 'Br. John' in the year 1513. This is what he wrote to a friend:
→ MP 300

PLUSSIC (Soll, Leuen, Myth)

The beginning of a new year is a time for review, stock-taking, looking forward,
new resolves, and such gratitude too. Having looked back over the year that's gone by
and tried to see some of the things we missed in the rust & heat of the moment, we can try
now to be better prepared in the year ahead, anticipating as well as hoping for the presence
of Christ to come to us... the world's events where God's design & providence will be at
work silently: the human joys, hope, anguish, disaster... and the reflections of God's love & beauty.
There'll be your personal life, your failures & happiness, the friends who'll grow more dear - close
and those who'll drift away, the occasions of frustration - difficulty as well as those where God's
presence & guidance will become, we pray, more clearly felt. → MP 300