

## August 1934 — *Caecilia Magazine* :

### PROPER OF THE MASS ORDERED FOR ALL CHURCHES OF DALLAS, TEXAS

At the diocesan Synod, held in June, it was ordered that after November first, the Proper of the Mass, must be sung in every church at High Mass.

This regulation is an extension of the tendency for liturgical observance throughout the country. In Springfield and Fall River, Mass., recent orders were given requiring the holding of Vespers every Sunday.

*Throughout Caecilia Magazine, we find constant references to “what percentage of churches” in each Diocese sing the complete Proper for High Mass.*

*For example:*

## January 1935 — *Caecilia Magazine* :

prial duty, fifty per cent of 300. The parochial choirs that render the Proper are reckoned at 300,\* the male choirs at 400;† but in spite of the continued prominence of the woman chorister, an anomaly condemned anew by the code, there is less of real music in the morning Office; congregational singing, never remarkable in early days, appears to have lost in vitality; and the number of Vesper or Compline missions has dwindled down to 170.

We can account for this in very few words. It was necessary that the choirs should purify the **Kyriale**, but the ultimate aim of the **Motu proprio** was that they should not touch it at all. It was never part of their business, which consisted of the Proper. They have thrown aside the Proper and monopolized the mass, thus compelling the faithful to be more or less devoutly dumb. So long as this **modus canendi** prevails no real progress can be made.

\*It is worthy of wider note that ninety-five percent of the choirs in the Archdiocese of Baltimore observe the order relating to the **Proprium** (March **Caecilia**).

†Capetown Cathedral Choir is the only male choir in the South African Union (Dr. McMurtie).