

## From the PREFACE to the *Editio Vaticana*

**Therefore, when dealing with the manuscripts, one must always remember this: **the fact that a manuscript might be older does not mean it must be accepted by reason of its age alone.** The restoration of the Church's song must not be based on paleography alone, but also must take into account history, the art of music (and especially chant), and experience in the laws of the sacred liturgy. Otherwise, even though it might be archaeologically correct, it might fall short in some of the other conditions, or offend against Catholic tradition by preventing certain periods from contributing to the heritage of the Church that which is good or even excellent.**

**I**N CHIROGRAPHIS igitur versandis hoc primum prae oculis est habitum: non videlicet ut quidquid foret antiquius, id statim sola antiquitatis ratione admitteretur. Sed quoniam ecclesiastici cantus instauratio, non unice palaeographicis rationibus inniti debebat, verum etiam ex historia, ex arte musica et gregoriana, atque adeo experientia sacraeque liturgiae legibus erat iuvanda; haec omnia attendenda simul fuerunt; ne opus, antiquitatis scientia forte confectum, congruentia partium destitueretur, ac traditioni catholicae iniustum haberetur, pluribus nempe saeculis iure defraudatis nonnihil boni aut etiam melioris in Ecclesiae patrimonium conferendi.

*The Father John Brébeuf Hymnal* **“has no parallel and not even any close competitor.”**

<https://ccwatershed.org/hymn/>

— Author for the *Church Music Association of America* weblog • 10 June 2022