

« **The Vatican Edition** of the Gregorian liturgical books, such as it was published by apostolic authority, with its traditional notation and the rules printed in the front of the Roman Gradual, **contains absolutely all — satis superque — that is needed for the exact rendition of the liturgical chant** »

25 January 1911 • Congregation of Sacred Rites

CONGREGATION OF RITES.

Decretum seu Declaratio super Editione Vaticana eiusque Reproductione quoad Libros Liturgicos Gregorianos.

Per decretum diei 11 Augusti 1905 Sacra Rituum Congregatio statuit ac declaravit Editionis Vaticanae libros liturgicos gregorianos respicientis reproductiones adamussim esse conformandas eidem typicae editioni, nihil prorsus addito, dempto vel mutato. Quod si ex quadam S. Sedis tolerantia et permittente Ordinario, aliquoties praefatis reproductionibus addita fuere quaedam signa, rhythmica nuncupata, atque ita ipsae reproductiones in vulgus editae ac venditae, tamen in seligendis atque adhibendis eiusmodi signis pluries conquestum est per ea aliquantum variari ac immutari notulas traditionales vaticanas: et ad hos abusus removendos idem Sacrum Consilium evulgandum censuit alterum decretum sub die 14 Februarii 1906. Quum tamen non omnes abusus cessaverint et alii recentiores adiecti sint, sive ob titulum adhibitum *Editionis rhythmicae*, sive ob interpretationem haud rectam decretorum, necessaria fuit nova declaratio authentica expressa per epistolam Secretarii S. R. C. datam die 2 Maii 1906. Quae epistola typographis facultatem et licentiam rite habentibus reproducendi editionem typicam Vaticanam clare significabat hanc solam editionem ab Apostolica Sede esse approbatam atque praescriptam pro usu cantus gregoriani, una cum subsequentibus editionibus eidem plane conformibus; ceterasque editiones rhythmicas nuncupatas ob signa adiuncta, habendas tantum toleratas; atque hoc sensu esse intelligendum decretum latum die 14 Februarii 1906.

Quae quum ita sint, ut removeantur abusus existentes et pracludatur via tum enunciatis tum aliis quae facile irreperere possent, Sacra eadem Congregatio sequentia decernere atque enucleatius declarare voluit:

I. Editionem Vaticanam de libris liturgicis gregorianis, prouti evulgata fuit Auctoritate Apostolica, cum suis notulis traditionibus et cum regulis Graduali Romano praefixis, satis superque continere quae ad rectam cantus liturgici executionem conferunt.

II. Reproductiones eiusdem editionis typicae, quae praeserunt signa superinducta, rhythmica dicta, per abusum vocari editiones rhythmicas, atque uti tales haud fuisse approbatas, sed tantum precario toleratas: hanc vero tolerantiam, attentis rerum adiunctis, amplius non admitti, nisi pro solis editionibus iam factis, Gradualis et Officii Defunctorum, ideoque nullatenus extendi sive ad editiones cum notulis gregorianis sive ad transumpta cum eisdem notulis Antiphonarii et aliorum quorumcumque librorum cantum liturgicum continentium, quae ad normam Motus Proprii diei 25 Aprilis 1904 et Decretorum huius S. R. C., tum pro universali Ecclesia, tum pro singulis Dioecesisibus vel Congregationibus, adhuc instauranda sunt et evulganda.

III. Rmis. Ordinariis locorum ac Superioribus Ordinum seu Congregationum interim licere editiones precario a S. Sede toleratas permittere intra limites propriae iurisdictionis, quin tamen ipsi eas in locis sibi subiectis praecipere, atque usum editionis approbatas inhibere valeant.

Contrariis non obstantibus quibuscumque. Die 25 Ianuarii 1911.

Fr. S. Card. MARTINELLI, Praefectus.

† PETRUS LA FONTAINE, Episc. Charystien., Secretarius.

L. ✠ S.

By a Decree of August 11 the S. C. of Rites laid down and declared that the reproductions of the Vatican edition of the liturgical Gregorian books must be entirely conformable to the typical edition, without additions, omissions or changes. By a certain toleration of the Holy See and with the permission of the Ordinary, the said reproductions have sometimes contained certain signs, known as rhythmical, and those reproductions have been published and sold to the public, but several complaints were made that by the selection and adding of these signs the traditional Vatican notes were somewhat varied, and changed, and to remove these abuses the S. Congregation determined to publish the other Decree of February 14, 1906. But as all the abuses did not cease and others were added to those already existing, such as that of the title of rhythmical edition and the wrong interpretation, another authentic declaration became necessary and was given by a Letter of the Secretary of the S. C. of Rites on May 2, 1906. In this letter publishers in possession of the faculty and permission to reproduce the typical Vatican edition were clearly informed that this edition alone was approved by the Apostolic See and prescribed for use in the Gregorian chant together with the subsequent editions fully conformable with it; and that other editions, called rhythmical by reason of the added signs, are to be held as merely tolerated and that in this sense is to be understood the Decree of February 14, 1906.

This being so, in order to remove existing abuses and to preclude the introduction of those that have been referred to and others that might easily creep in, the S. Congregation has determined to decree and declare more clearly the following points:

1. The Vatican edition of the liturgical Gregorian books, as published by Apostolic Authority, with its traditional notes and the rules prefixed to the Roman Gradual, contains quite enough information as to the right execution of the liturgical chant.

2. The reproductions of this typical edition containing the extra signs, known as rhythmical, are abusively called rhythmical editions and as such have not been approved but merely tolerated upon request; this toleration, under the circumstances, can no longer be admitted except for editions already made of the Gradual and the Office of the Dead, and therefore cannot be at all extended to the editions with Gregorian notes or to extracts, with the same notes, of the Antiphonary and any other books whatsoever and published according to the tenor of the *motu proprio* of April 25, 1904, and of the Decrees

of this S. Congregation both for the Universal Church and for individual dioceses and Congregations.

3. In the meantime the Most Rev. Ordinaries of places and the Superiors of Orders or Congregations may permit within the limits of their several jurisdictions the use of the editions tolerated upon request by the Holy See, but without ordering their use in the places subject to them or prohibiting the use of the approved edition.

All things whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding. January 25, 1911.

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