

**20 December 1906**

The Right Rev'd Père Dom Pothier, much occupied, and not desiring to enter into the polemic created about the Pontifical Decrees and the Vatican edition, has charged me to give you the brief reply which you desire.

The Congregation of Sacred Rites has shown itself, in its decrees, solicitous to maintain the integrity of the traditional notation restored in the Vatican edition.

Certain *signs* invented by Dom Mocquereau (of Solesmes) have been introduced into the notation in a manner as to alter its integrity: these signs (*episemas*) have been examined by the Decree of February 14.

The episemas are not based upon any traditional foundation and are the result of a wholly particular theory.

It must be said on the other hand that, if certain other theories, as, for instance, those of the mensuralists Dechevrens and Houdard, would dare to express themselves in the traditional notation, they would naturally open the way to alterations far more grave and condemnable.

To sum up, the Decrees aimed at the *rhythmic editions* (with episemas) of Solesmes, but they did not aim at the **Benedictine method of rhythm**, such as is practiced in a great many churches and monasteries and even at Solesmes, with slight shadings (method called the "oratorical rhythm").

Agree to accept, Sir, the expression of my religious devotedness.

**Dom Lucien David**

Priest of the Order of Saint Benedict

Private Secretary to the Rt. Rev. Dom Pothier