

Dom Pierre Combe, page 318

Father Holly's letter (written in French) was dated March 20. He insisted strongly that Dom Mocquereau should come to Rome:

. . . Father de Santi does what he can to save a few fragments of the numerous phrases you have challenged. Mr. Wagner, thanks to the authority of the German manuscripts that he quotes at every turn, has been of value to you in a small way. However, in general, I must tell you quite simply that the majority of the voting is in favor of the version of the *Liber Gradualis*, every time that, in the better known chants, that version is contradicted by your instructions. This is ridiculous, because no one of us is qualified to sit in judgment against the work of Solesmes. What reconciles me to this is the perfect confidence that what we do will be submitted to your monks, and that it is you who will always have the last word. It's just that you have to be present *here to protect your rights* . . . As I see it, certain individuals here are convinced that this referral back to you is done only as a courtesy, and that the Commission as it is constituted at the Greek College has the right to treat your text *however it sees fit*. So you can see what we need: not your archaeological weaponry from Solesmes, but some canonical weaponry from Rome. You yourself must wield these weapons. What is needed is a *leader*. For there is no one here strong enough to *wage* a campaign in favor of Solesmes. If you were there, you could easily form and direct a *parliamentary block*, which would give you a majority of votes on all questions under discussion. Father de Santi has tried hard to line us up and lead us in the attack, or rather, to organize the defense. However, lately he is discouraged. . . . Last year, you came (at my urging or on your own initiative, no matter) and you were able to prevail in each of the opposing arguments. Now, if you hold firm in your decision to stay at home, you will certainly lose the fight. You still have time to regain the lost terrain, and to organize the defense of the ground others covet. . . . *P.S.* It seems to me that you would do well to invite Mr. Worth and Father Baralli to come, and also one of your monks who is better able than I to write up the acts and discussions of the Commission. . . . [As we have seen, Father Holly had been assigned the task of preparing certain documentation.]

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