ECCLESIASTICAL PRONUNCIATION OF THE LATIN

Vowels

a is sounded like *a* in "father"

ē is sounded like *a* in "fame"

ĕ is sounded like *e* in "met"

i and **y** are sounded like *ee* in "meet"

o is sounded like *o* in "no"

u is sounded like *oo* in "boot"

Diphthongs

ae, oe, are sounded like *ay* in "day," except when two dots are placed above the **ë**, in which case each vowel is given a distinct sound.

au is sounded like *ou* in "house."

eu though forming one syllable is sounded *ā'oo*.

As a general rule each vowel is sounded separately, even though the vowel is doubled as in *filii*, which is pronounced fee-lee-ee.

Consonants

Those consonants which differ in sound from their usage in the English language are **c, cc, sc, ch, g, gn,** and **ti.**

c before **e, ae, oe, i, y** receives the sound of *ch* as in "chair." Example: *dul'-ce* (dul'-chā), *cae'-lum* (chā'-lŏŏm).

c before **a, o, u, au** receives the sound of *k* as in "kite."

cc before **e, ae, oe, i, y** receives the sound *tch*. Example: *ecce* (et'-chāy).

sc before **e, ae, oe, i, y** receives the sound of *sh*. Example: *de-scen-dit* (dā-shen'-deet).

ch before any vowel receives the sound of *k*, as in *brachium* (brah'-kē-oom).

g before **e, ae, oe, i, y** receives the soft sound as in the words *An'-ge-lus, re-gi'-na.* In every other case **g** is hard, as in *gladius,* unless followed by **n.**

gn receives the sound of *ni* in *union.* Example: *agnus* (ah'-nyoos).

h receives the sound of *k* in *mihi* (mē-ke) and *nihil* (nee'-keel). In all other cases it is not sounded.

j is sounded like the English *y* in *yes.* Example: *je'-su* (yā'-soo). The **i** in *alleluia* is sounded the same (al-le-loo'-ya).

s is always sounded like *s* in *yes.*

ti when followed by a vowel and preceded by any letter except *s, t, x,* is sounded like *tsee.* Example: *gratias* (gra'-tsee-as).

x before **c** is sounded like *gg* and the **c** like *sh.* Example: *excelsis* (egg-shĕl'-sees).

A consonant between two vowels belongs to the vowel following it. Example: *bo'-nae, ti'-bi,* etc.