**LITURGICAL PRONUNCIATION OF LATIN**

By Rev. Carlo Rossini

The following rules are based on the actual pronunciation of Latin by the Clergy of the Province of Rome, and therefore are "absolutely reliable" notwithstanding any opinion to the contrary.

The "life" of the Roman-Latin pronunciation lies on the VOWELS. Each vowel has a different but never­ changing sound:

A always open as in Father.

E as in Red but more resonant, more like a in Fare (never with a second sound as in May) I & Y as ee in Feet (never as i in Tin).

0 as in For (never as in Go)

U as oo in School

DIPTHONGS:

AE & OE - as the above vowel E, except in words with the "diaeresis" as in Israel, Noe, etc. where both vowels are pronounced (in the Rossini text, the "e" in those words has two dots over it.)

AU as ou in House. In singing, the first vowel is sustained for the entire length of the note; the second vowel is pronounced rapidly just before passing to the next syllable (a-utem, la-udem). The same rule holds for EU in the word Euge (e-uge) (with an accent on the "E" in euge).

El, EO, EU, OU these are not diphthongs, but "dissyllables"; therefore are to be pronounced as two separate vowels. The same rule holds for UI (cu-i, hu-ic) except when preceded by a q (qui, qui-dam)

CONSONANTS:

C before e, i, ', ae, oe, as h in Church; in all other cases is like K.

G before e, i, y, ae, oe is soft as in Gentle; in all other cases is hard as in Govern.

H is mute, except in words like Mihi and Nihil, where it is pronounced like K (mi-ki, ni-kil). J as y in Yes (Jesus: Ye-sus).

R is pronounced by jarring the tongue against the palate (or-bis, car-nis).

X as ks: Lux -- luks; Rex -- reks; Dixit -- diksit; Erexit -- e-re-ksit; Dexteram -- deks-te-ram; etc. Z as dz (not ds): Nazaraeth -- Na-dzareth.

EX (alone) is pronounced eks. If ex is the beginning of a word: when combined with a Vowel, is pronounced egs (Exaudi -- egs-au-di; Exemplum -- e-gsem-plum; Exivit -- egs-i-vit; etc.); when combined with a Consonant, is pronounced eks: Excelsis -- eks-chel-sis (not sk-shel- sis!); Exspecto -- eks-pe-cto; Extra -- eks-tra; etc.

Tl When followed by a Vowel is like tsi (etiam -- e-tsi-am; Patientia -- pa-tsi- en-tsi-a; Pontio -- Pon-tsi-o; except when the ti is preceded by S (Hostia -- os-ti-a; Hostium -- os-ti-um); in this and all toerh cases is pronounced as ordinary T (Petitionem -- pe-ti-tsi-o-nem).

TH As simple T because H is mute: Catholicam -- Ca-to-Ii-cam. CH always as k: Chorus -- ko-rus; Cherubim -- ke-ru-bim.

GN has a liquid sound simliar to that of ni in Dominions: Agnus -- A-nyus; Magnam -- ma-nyam; Magnificat -­ ma-ny-fi-cat.

SC Before e,i,y,ae, as SH in shell (Descendit -- de-shen-dit; Suscipe -- su- shi-pe; Sciat -- shi-at): in all other cases is pronouncd like SK (Scriptura -- Skri-ptu-ra; Schola -- ska-la; CScapulis -- ska-pu-lis) .

Double consonants must actually be doubled in their intensity; thus: Tallis, Peccata, Hosanna, Alleluia, not Tolis, Pecata, Hosana, Aleluia -­ Ecce: as ech-che.

Dactylic words like Gloria, Filium, Etiam, Gratiam, etc. consist of three syllables which are to be pronounced distinctly: Glo-ri-a, Fi-Ii-um,

E-ti-am, Gra-ti-am (not: Glo-ria, Fi-lium, E-tiam, Gra-tiam).