

cians may be called cathedrals of harmony. But you are especially welcome as members of a great society, which has for aim and purpose the improvement and the reform of Church music, a purpose sanctioned by the Council of Trent, by the Roman Pontiffs, by our own Councils and Synods, and by our Bishops in repeated approvals of your organization. Who shall say that reforms and improvements are not necessary? Although the words of my text show that the music of the Church is not confined to any particular school, but is Catholic as to instrument and to forms of expression, yet every school should suit the composition to the dignity of the theme, the sanctity of the place, and to the respect due to the inspiration of the words and the holiness of the theme.

No matter to what school we belong or what form we may favor, the musical composition must be religious and appropriate to the worship of the Most High. Whether we use the trumpet or the psaltery, or the harp, the timbrel, the high-sounding cymbals, the strings or the organ, plain chant or figured music, it must be Church music, and not the music of the camp or of the theatre. We are told to praise the Lord with all these instru-