

Prelature of Pope John Paul II

"Pope John Paul II in January, 1985, established the International Ordinariate as a Personal Papal Prelature under the guidance of the Russian Emigre Archbishop Josef DeBrulle. The stated purpose of that Prelature, although "under the radar," was to oversee the training, internship and subsequent oversight of married men (viri probati) for ordination to the priesthood and to make those married priests available to the bishops." (Roman Catholic Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo of Lusaka, Zambia)

Personal prelature is a canonical structure of the Catholic Church which comprises a prelate, clergy, and laity who undertake specific pastoral activities

The specific pastoral activity of the Catholic Apostolic Church, Eastern Rite, International Ordinariate, as was originally desired by Pope John Paul II, is to create an avenue for married Roman Catholic priests to return to service in Roman Catholic parishes. (Married Roman Catholic priests are priests who married after ordination in the Roman Catholic Church).

