PRELATURE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

[NOTE: Sacred Position of the Office of Priesthood conferred on Reverend Michael Cuozzo on March 14, 1997, Presider and Celebrant: Mar (Bishop) +John Dunnigan, International Ordinariate, Catholic Apostolic Church, Eastern Rite, Personal Prelature of Pope John Paul II, San Diego, CA, USA.]

"Pope John Paul II in January, 1985, established the International Ordinariate Catholic Apostolic Church, Eastern Rite 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. Because the Prelature was more in line with the Eastern Rite and didn't have public or church support.” (See Letter to Pope Benedict XVI, Married Priest Now! Prelature, A Roman Catholic Community, Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo, Emeritus Archbishop of Lusaka, December 13, 2006, pg. 14)

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 International Ordinariate, Catholic Apostolic Church, Eastern Rite, 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 have left celibate promises/vows as Roman Catholic priest to marry.)