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The ordinariate will be overseen by a specially appointed Ordinary, with the assistance of a general council. The clergy joining the ordinariate are being ordained especially quickly so that they can continue serving their community.

As Fr Stock stated, these men "will be looking after their own communities from day one, from the day they are ordained, so they will need continuing assistance in learning many of the distinctive elements of Catholic life". As such, their training will be 'on the job', through day courses, e-learning and so on.

The issued statement recognises the haziness of the term 'Anglican patrimony' and satisfies itself with the spiritual aspects encompassed by the term. Of course, married clergy are also part of the Anglican tradition.

"If an Anglican clergyman wants to become a Catholic priest in the ordinariate and he is not married, because the rule of celibacy still pertains for the ordinariate, he will remain unmarried," Fr Stock clarified.

"If someone who is not a clergyman enters the ordinariate, there might be a situation in which the Ordinary and the governing council of the ordinariate believe it is appropriate to

ordain a married man within the ordinariate, but we don't know what those circumstances are. All we know is that a limited provision has been made ... within the constitution."

Once more, this stresses the paradoxically individual aspect of this large-scale initiative. It also highlights the pioneering nature of Pope Benedict's effort at true ecumenism, seeking to achieve Christian unity without insisting on uniformity of rites and customs.

Its new approach means that nobody knows how it will develop. The ordinariate in England and Wales is the first; interested parties around the world will be watching. As the archbishop of Westminster, Vincent Nichols, commented: "This is a unique moment and the Catholic community in England and Wales is privileged to be playing its part in this historic development in the life of the Universal Church."

"Pope Benedict has made clear his own intentions: that the ordinariate can serve the wider cause of visible unity between our two Churches by demonstrating in practice the extent to which we have so much to give to each other in our common service of the Lord. With this in mind he describes this step as 'a prophetic gesture'."

In short, it is a gamble, but a real effort for unity.

Honorary MBE for Kerry-born Mercy nun

By Sean Ryan

A KERRY-BORN Sister of Mercy nun has been awarded an honorary MBE in recognition of her life-long work in helping individuals and families suffering from alcoholism and other addictions.

Sister Consilio Fitzgerald founded the Cuan Mhuire residential centre for addictions in Newry, County Down in 1984.

There are now facilities in Monaghan, Dublin, Athy, Cork, Limerick and Galway and Cuan Mhuire is the largest provider of addiction treatment in Ireland.

Sister Consilio said that the award was a welcome recognition of the hard work of many individuals from across the whole community.

"People from Northern Ireland helped us build the Cuan Mhuire mission and believed in the ability of our work to change

people's lives," she said.

"They came to us for help and reciprocated the support they were given by being enormously generous in their practical support for our work, and they continue to be so to the present day."

Sister Consilio also claimed that the award reflected the very deep understanding on the part of the North's Assembly and Executive of the value and the wholly inclusive nature of the

work of Cuan Mhuire. She also thanked the many people who have prayed for the organisation over the past number of years.

"I have always been especially conscious of the value of the prayers of the mothers whose children, husbands and friends have come to us for help.

"I'd never have survived and we would never be where we are today without the help of Our Blessed Lady, Cuan Mhuire's best friend."

Catholic schools 'a good way to spend taxpayers' money'

By Martha Linden

CATHOLIC schools are "value for money" for the taxpayer in spite of protests from "noisy" secular campaigners, a senior bishop has insisted.

The Rt Rev Malcolm McMahon, chairman of the Catholic Education Service for England and Wales (CESEW), said he did not understand why "small" but "very noisy" groups such as the National Secular Society thought Catholic schools were a problem.

"You always feel a little bit kind of got at, because that is the nature of these groups, they get more publicity than their numbers deserve, but when you ask parents, they want their children to go to faith schools - that is why we are well supported," he said.

"The Catholic sector makes an enormous contribution to our society both in terms of its mainstream work, which is education, but also in terms of the spin-offs, the social cohesion, the contribution to the community and therefore my conclusion is ... that it is a very good way of spending taxpayers' money."

Bishop McMahon, who is the Bishop of

Nottingham, was speaking as he released two CESEW reports on the performance of Catholic schools in England and Wales.

The findings showed nearly three quarters of Catholic secondary schools were judged to be outstanding or good for overall effectiveness by Ofsted inspectors between 2005 and 2009, compared with 60 per cent nationally. In Catholic primary schools, 74 per cent were judged outstanding or good compared with 66 per cent nationally.

Outstanding

Nearly half of Catholic schools scored 'outstanding' for personal development and well-being, compared with 36 per cent for all schools, with 53 per cent of Catholic schools judged to have outstanding behaviour compared with 39 per cent nationally.

Fifty-one per cent of Catholic schools gained an outstanding assessment for the degree to which pupils enjoyed their education, compared with a 42 per cent national average.

At GCSE level in 2009, the proportion of students in Catholic schools obtaining five or more GCSEs at A*-C, including English and maths

was 58 per cent, compared with 52 per cent in schools nationally.

Figures for 2009 showed approximately three quarters of pupils in maintained Catholic schools and colleges in England and Wales were Catholic.

Catholic secondary schools had a higher percentage of minority ethnic groups at 26 per cent compared with 21 per cent nationally. Catholic primary schools scored 28 per cent for minority ethnic groups compared with a 24 per cent national average.

Oona Stannard, chief executive and director of CESEW, said the reports demonstrated that high standards in Catholic schools were not a "flash in the pan" but sustained and nurtured over time.

"I am particularly pleased to note that our achievements are also matched by conspicuously high scores for personal development, including enjoyment of school," she said.

"To have such happy and successful outcomes doesn't just benefit the pupils - nearly 30 per cent of whom are not Catholic - but also shows the Church making an investment in the future wellbeing of society through Catholic schools."

Stars of music business pay tribute to tragic Teena Marie

STEVIE Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Queen Latifah, Shanice Wilson and Motown founder Berry Gordy Junior were among the luminaries who honoured singer Teena Marie at a private memorial service.

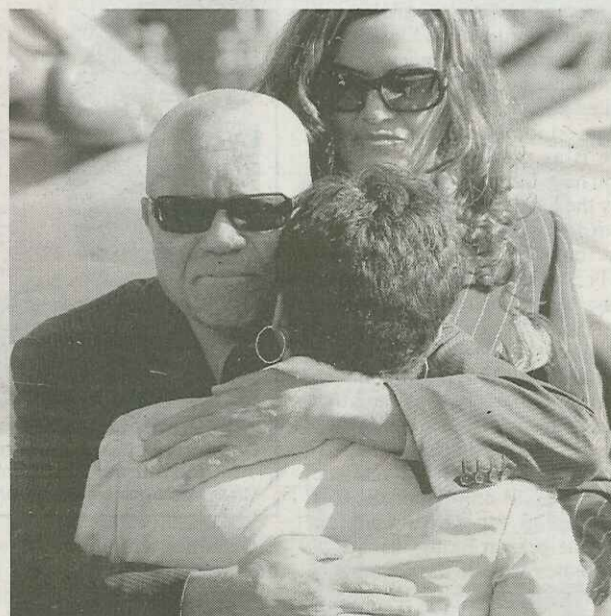
Gordy and Wonder spoke and Robinson and Wilson sang as they celebrated Marie's life at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles.

Memorial

Marie's daughter, Alia Rose Brockert, also remembered her mother during the two-hour Catholic memorial service and Mass, which was closed to reporters.

Marie, born Mary Christine Brockert, died on December 27 aged 54, of natural causes.

Best known for her 1980s hits *Lovergirl*, *Ooo La La La* and *Lead Me On*, Marie's debut LP, 1979's *Wild and Peaceful*, was written with her mentor Rick James, who dueted with Marie on her breakthrough, single *I'm A Sucker For Your Love*.



Embrace: Motown founder Berry Gordy Jr comforts a fellow mourner at a memorial service for singer Teena Marie, who died on December 26, aged 54

Motown, who rarely signed white artists, didn't put her photo on the cover - leading to a longstanding belief that Marie was actually black.

Teena Marie's most recent release was 2009's *Congo Square*. She continued to tour until shortly before her sudden death.

Small charities facing Big Society 'squeeze'

By Paul Donovan

THE director of a Catholic homeless centre has warned that smaller organisations like his own are getting squeezed out by the Government's Big Society agenda.

Director of Anchor House in east London, Keith Fernett, points out that the charity has won five awards from the UK Skills Council for Education and Training, two at national excellence level and one as the best in the UK.

"In the climate of the Big Society, does this count for anything?" he asked.

"All I can see is that Iain Duncan Smith's regime for tendering welfare services in very large regional contracts is likely to preclude Anchor House, so in an era of localism and devolution, a local and devolved charity that is the centre of national excellence could be excluded.

"My day-to-day reality is one of our organisation having to consider tendering to provide services for the homeless. If we were to lose the tender, am I supposed to put the 118 residents on the streets?"

The director claimed that: "Working on the frontline in the era of the Big Society is challenging and at times almost impossible to understand the logic of what we are facing."

"The redeeming feature is the dedication of my staff, the appreciative nature of our users and the collective will to make society bearable and inclusive for those at its margins."

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