

DECREE OF GENERAL CHAPTER

For nearly fifteen hundred years the Rule of Saint Benedict has inspired many of Christ's faithful to seek God through living out in a more profound way the commitment which they undertook at baptism. Monasteries of monks and of nuns have been called to become schools of the Lord's service, following Saint Benedict's precepts and this little Rule for beginners has also been a rule of life for groups of men and women who have sought to follow Christ while remaining in the world.

The monks of the English Benedictine Congregation, which has its origins in the canons of the Fourth Lateran Council and in the Bull *Summi Magistri* of Pope Benedict XII and which was 'continued, restored and if necessary newly erected' by the Breve *Ex incumbenti* of Pope Paul V, have received the mission of spreading the Gospel through parish work, through educational work and through studies (Pope Leo XIII, Apostolic Letter *Religiosus Ordo*).

The *Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue*, has been established in the Archdiocese of Santiago de Chile and has established links initially with Ampleforth Abbey and subsequently with other communities of monks of the English Benedictine Congregation which engage in work with schools attached to the monasteries. These links have been spiritually fruitful to all, and the *Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue* now seeks a juridical link with the whole of the English Benedictine Congregation.

The Abbot and Chapter of Ampleforth Abbey recognise the oblates of the *Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue* as *confratres* of their monastery, and the other monasteries of the English Benedictine Congregation recognise them as brothers and sisters with a special link

It is the bond of peace which preserves and fosters the unity in the Spirit which the English Benedictine Congregation and the *Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue* desire to promote between the two bodies (cf. Ephes. 4,3). To strengthen and confirm this bond, the General Chapter of the English Benedictine Congregation and the *Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue* now establish a spiritual communion and juridical consociation between the two bodies with the following specific provisions:

1. The English Benedictine Congregation recognises the charism of the *Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue* as an authentic expression of the spirit of Saint Benedict.

2. The Abbot and Chapter of Ampleforth Abbey recognise the oblates of the *Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue* as confratres of their monastery, and the other monasteries of the English Benedictine Congregation recognise a spiritual bond with the *Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue*.
3. The *Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue* and the English Benedictine Congregation offer each other the support of their prayers.
4. The monasteries of the English Benedictine Congregation which engage in work with schools will seek to offer hospitality to members of the *Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue* at the request of the *Responsable* of the Movement, and the *Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue* will seek to offer hospitality to monks of the English Benedictine Congregation at the request of their abbots.
5. The monasteries of the English Benedictine Congregation which do not engage in work with schools will welcome the opportunity to develop bonds of friendship and collaboration with the *Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue*.
6. Those responsible for the conduct of the schools attached to the monasteries of the English Benedictine Congregation and those responsible for the conduct of the schools directed by the *Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue* will continue to collaborate in promoting the Benedictine charism in the schools.

José A. Guzmán
Responsable
M. A. M.
M. A. M.

Fr. Richard Yeoman O.S.B.
ABBOT President
Fr. Grande Thomas O.S.B.
Sec. General Chapter