

The monastery of nuns at Colwich is the smallest community of nuns of the Congregation. I have frequently cited its excellent monastic observance and the charity that reigns in that community as a model for the rest of us. However, the Abbess is now over 80 and

Irrelevant

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Several other monasteries are small, in particular the monastery of nuns at Curzon Park and the monastery of monks at Ealing, but I do not foresee particular difficulties in the next four years.

The problem of sexual abuse of children by monks continues to weigh heavily on some of our monasteries, and at the time of writing there is a court case pending which could cause serious damage to Ealing Abbey. It needs to be stressed that the problems arise as a result of abuse that is revealed to have taken place many years ago; it would be foolish to be complacent, but I think we can hope that the safeguards put in place during the last ten years should have an effect in reducing the risks of child abuse taking place in the future. My worry is that communities may become complacent and cease to take these issues seriously; I was pleased that the General Chapter issued a definition (i.e., a temporary law) which reads, "General Chapter reminds all monasteries of the importance of proper Safeguarding procedures, both in the schools entrusted to our care, and also in our houses. All our communities should ensure that they have in place appropriate Safeguarding structures and that there is adequate training in Safeguarding for our monks and nuns."

9. Other matters.

The governing bodies of the Congregation have functioned well during the last four years: the Abbot President's Council has met regularly - usually about four times each year - and the temporal goods of the Congregation have been well administered, and have been sufficient for the Congregation's needs.

As Abbot President I have been quite heavily involved in the affairs of the Benedictine Confederation as a whole, and since September 2006 I have been Vicar of the Abbot Primate. Two former Abbots of our Congregation are at present Administrators of monasteries of other Congregations of the Benedictine Confederation; two members are involved in providing a course for Formators of the Benedictine and Trappist Orders; this has been greatly appreciated by the wider monastic world. One of our Abbots gives much help to recently-founded communities in South America; while another of our Abbots is involved in fostering collaboration between schools run by Benedictine monks and nuns world-wide.

For several years several of our monasteries have had links with a new ecclesial movement in Chile, the Movimiento Apostólico Manquehue, and at the General Chapter it was agreed to establish a juridical link between the English Benedictine Congregation and this Institute (cf. Prot. No. 40872/2009). I believe that the links between us have been both reinvigorating for our Congregation and helpful for the Manquehue Movement. I think the remarks on this subject by Bishop Dammertz at the Plenaria of 2008 (Sequela Christi, 2008/02, p.49) are very true.