

Bishop Cletus Chandrasiri Perera O.S.B.
Bishop of Ratnapura



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TO THE CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF RATNAPURA

Dear Rev Fathers

God's Blessings and Fraternal greetings

I hope this letter finds you all in good health and spirit

The next meeting of the Presbyterium will be held on Monday and Tuesday the 13th and 14th of October 2014 at the Bishop's House, beginning as usual at 4.30 p.m. on Monday. Please be present without fail.

2. Please note that the ANNUAL RETREAT will be held from Monday the 17th to Saturday the 22nd November 2014 at Bulutota. The Annual Retreat is obligatory to all priests. They are bound to attend it unless there are very compelling and serious reasons which unfortunately prevent them from doing so, in which case they have to contact me personally and explain the reasons. The Annual Retreat is crucial for every priest and religious. However those who have already made a good Retreat during this year can be dispensed.

3. PAPAL VISIT: All of us are busy, preparing for this great historic event in the Life of the Church in Sri Lanka. Holy Father Pope Francis will be in Sri Lanka from January 13 to 15, 2015. He will canonize Blessed Joseph Vaz, our dear Apostle of Sri Lanka. I very urgently request each one of you to render your fullest cooperation to the organizers in making this event a success and fruit-bearing in the life of the Church, particularly in the life of the people of our own Diocese. You have been already informed on how you have to organize your parish pilgrimages to Colombo in this regard.

4. INTERRELIGIOUS AND ECUMENICAL PAPAL AUDIENCE AT THE BMICH: As an important item of the Papal Visit, there will be an Interreligious and Ecumenical Audience with the Holy Father on the evening of the 13th of January 2015 at the BMICH. I have been appointed by the Central Committee as the Chairperson of the Sub-committee in charge of this event. Our Sub-committee has decided to invite at least 50 prominent Buddhist monks from each Diocese where the Buddhists are a majority, such as ours, and a few clergymen of other Christian and non Christian denominations. I very earnestly request your valuable cooperation in this regard. I very earnestly ask the parish priests to contact the prominent Buddhist monks in their respective parish areas in the following manner:

4 monks from each of the grade 1 parishes (Kegalle, Ratnapura, Balangoda and Kudagama)

3 monks from each of the grade 2 parishes (Yatiantota and Dehigahapitiya).

2 monks from each of the other parishes

Rev. Fr. Anushka Nishan Fernando
Secretary to the Bishop of Ratnapura,
(Diocese of Ratnapura)
Madola,
Avisawella.

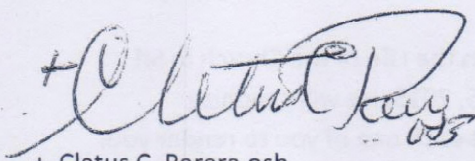
This is a provisional calculation, amounting roughly to 50 monks. This can be changed, if the need arises..Do not worry too much about the Clergy of other denominations. We can find enough of them in Colombo. The participation of as many Buddhist monks as possible is essential at this audience..

Please ensure that you select them from among the prominent monks such as Mahanayakes, Anunayakes, Sanganayakes and Nayake Theros of Viharayas/ Temples, who are well disposed towards the Catholic Church. You will have to visit them personally and speak to them about the Pope's visit and request their presence at the audience at the BMICH. Some may respond positively while others negatively. Let us accept both responses in good spirit for the sake of the Church.

Please get their full names, postal addresses and telephone numbers and other contact details, if there are any and send them over to Rev Fr Amila Fernando, Coordinator, IR & E Activities, Bishop's House, Avissawella by or before the 30th of October 2014. We shall send them by post or hand over to them personally through you our official invitations

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your apostolate. I value your cooperation a great deal and thank you for same.

Yours fraternally

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Cletus C. Perera' with a cross symbol at the beginning.

+ Cletus C. Perera osb

Bishop of FRatnapujra

Rev. Fr. Anushka Nishan Fernando
Secretary to the Bishop of Ratnapura
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