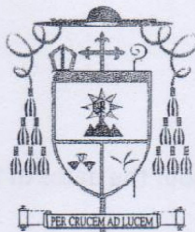


Bishop Cletus Chandrasiri Perera O.S.B.
Bishop of Ratnapura



Bishop's House,
Madöla,
Avissawella 10700,
SRI LANKA.

Tel : 036 - 2232368

Direct : 036 - 2232370

Fax : 036 - 2232369

E-mail : bisratnapura@gmail.com

THROUGH THE CROSS
TO THE LIGHT

3rd September 2015. CL/PRES/RN 78

TO THE CLERGY AND THE RELIGIOUS OF THE DIOCESE OF RATNAPURA

Dear Rev Fathers and Sisters

God's Blessings and Fraternal Greetings

As I have already informed the Rev Fathers, the next meeting of the Presbyterium will be held on Monday and Tuesday the 14th and 15th of September 2015, beginning at 4.30 p.m. on Monday. **All priests are kindly requested to attend it without fail.**

2. As already announced, the postponed session on the "Contribution of Sahithyacharya Fr Jacome Gonsalvez, a co-worker of St Joseph Vaz, to the Catholic Literature in Sri Lanka" will be held on Tuesday the 15th September, beginning at 9.30 a.m. and ending with lunch. **All priests and religious sisters are kindly requested to be present at this session** in the context of our on-going formation. This session will be facilitated by Rev. Fr Anthony Fernandopulle PHD (London) and PHD (Sri Jayawardanapura) of the Archdiocese of Colombo.

3. The Annual Retreat for the **priests of the Diocese** is scheduled to be held from Monday the 30th November to Saturday the 5th December 2015 at Bulutota. The Preacher will be Most Rev Dr Emmanuel Fernando, the Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo. Some priests have told me that the scheduled dates are not convenient for them, due to their year-end programmes of the Dhaham Pasalas and Christmas to be held during the first week of December.

We had to change the originally fixed dates of our Retreat, namely from November 9 to 14, due to the CBCSL meeting being advanced to that week. The CBCSL has again changed the dates of its meeting to the 25th and 26th of November. I am trying to see whether we can have the Retreat during the originally fixed dates, **namely from November 9 to 14**, if we can find a preacher. I would kindly request you to have both the options, marked in your diaries. I would thank you to suggest to me the names of any available preachers. It will be a great help to me, as I am in a difficult situation with regard to finding a

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

preacher. I hope to give you definite information about the dates of the Retreat at the next meeting of the Presbyterium.

4. As I mentioned at one of the past Presbyteral meetings, I would kindly request the Parish Priests to set apart one Sunday of the month for Holy Childhood activities. This can take the place of the Dhaham Pasala. Thus we want the Holy Childhood Cells to be revived in our parishes. I would kindly request the Rev Sisters, living in our parishes to assist the Parish Priests as much as they can in this very essential apostolate in favour of our children.

5. Similarly, the Parish Priests are very much urged to promote the La Kri Vi apostolate wherever possible. It is certainly a powerful means of witnessing to our Christian presence and proclaiming Christ in our Diocese where the 99% of the people are non-Christian. However, the priests/ sisters/ lay animators in-charge of the two associations should interact with each other in such a way that they maintain a healthy relationship and avoid conflicts between the two.

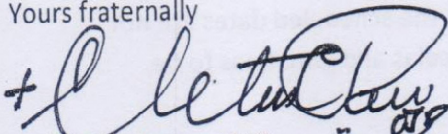
6. A catholic lady, by the name of Mrs Dulcy de silva, who is in-charge of a western band of the Legion of Mary at Moratuwa, has informed me that this band can be made available for Church Feasts and Processions. There is no fixed charge. She would be satisfied if transport is provided with a voluntary contribution for the maintenance of the band. She has already provided this western band for the Church Feasts at Dehigahapitiya and Bulathkohupitiya in the past.

7. I will be joining the Sri Lanka pilgrims who will be going for a Retreat, organized by the Divine Retreat Centre, Chalakkudy, India, for the Sri Lankan catholics from September 6 to 12, 2015. A crowd of 450 to 500 Sri Lankans are expected to attend this Retreat. Eight of our priests, including myself, will attend this Retreat and help in the Confessions as well. We are very grateful to the generous catholics who are sponsoring our travel, food and board.

8. **Some information:** Very Rev Fr Damian Fernando will take care of the pastoral needs of the Parish of Yatiyantota for the time being, until a permanent parish priest is appointed. Rev Fr Dudley Attanayake too will help him. Rev Fr Ayal Indike Fernando will serve as the Assistant Parish Priest at the Cathedral, Ratnapura, with effect from the 13th of September 2015.

With the assurance of prayers and kind regards

Yours fraternally


+ Cletus C. Perera OSB

Bishop of Ratnapura

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