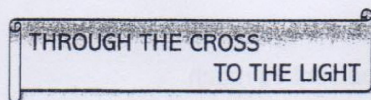


Bishop Cletus Chandrasiri Perera O.S.B.  
Bishop of Ratnapura



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2<sup>nd</sup> January 2016; CL/PRES/RN 81

### TO THE CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF RSATNAPURA

Dear Rev Fathers and Deacons

God's Blessings and Prayerful Greetings for the Year 2016

As we have begun a New Year, let me first wish you a Happy and Joyful New Year and the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit in accomplishing your priestly ministry and assure you of my prayers.

1. The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy has been proclaimed by Holy Father Pope Francis. I now kindly request the Parish Priests to organize at least one pilgrimage during the Year of Mercy to any of our Churches where the Holy Door of Mercy is open, namely The Cathedral at Ratnapura, the Marian Shrine at Kudagama and the Marian Shrine at Tanjantenna. Please inform the Priests in-charge in advance, if you make a pilgrimage to one of these Churches.

2. We shall have our next meeting of the Presbyterian and on Monday and Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016, beginning as usual at 4.30 p.m. on Monday at the Bishop's House. I am hoping to organize a recollection on Tuesday morning.

3. I request the cooperation of all our Parish priests to re-constitute our Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC) and Church Working Committees (CWC), strictly in accordance with No. 3, 1 and 2 of the "Policies and Statutes" which we have now promulgated. Please ensure that some new persons are elected / appointed as leaders / office bearers. There are some who have been holding offices for decades. There may be others who wish to serve the parish, holding responsibilities, but have no chance. According to the Statutes, no Person can hold the same office in the PPC for more than 6 years. (Initially elected for 3 years and extended for a further period of 3 years).

You are very earnestly requested to send us the names and the contact details of the two lay parish representatives without fail before **the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2016** so that we can have our next meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) on Thursday (Poya Day) the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 at 10.00.a.m. at the Bishop's House. The two parish representatives should be selected from the office-bearers of the PPC. The DPC membership is mainly comprised of the representatives of parishes.

4. The Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary will conduct a two-month intensive English course for catholic girls, awaiting their O/L results. This will be **from the 1<sup>st</sup> February to the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 at St Theresa's English Academy, Ratnapura** (In the premises of the Child Jesus Convent). I would kindly request the

Rev.Fr. Anushka Nishan Fernando  
Secretary to the Bishop of Ratnapura.  
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Parish Priests to give publicity to this course in your parishes. The applications have to be sent to reach Rev Sr Predeepika Perea, Sisters of Charity, No 15, and Don Carolis Road, Colombo 5 (Tel.011 2584816), by the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

5. We need reports of all projects, for which financial help has been received from the Procurator General. We have to send reports of the projects, executed, to funding agencies overseas. Please send your reports to Rev Fr Sanjeewa Peiris, the Diocesan Projects Coordinator. Your kind cooperation is very much valued in this regard.

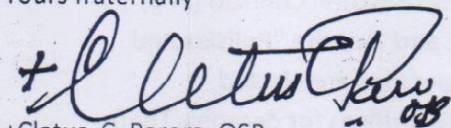
6. The Annual Retreat will be held from November 21 to 26, this year. Please have these dates marked in your diaries.

7. I would like to meet the young clergy, including the two deacons, on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 10.00 a.m. at the Bishop's House. All those priests who were ordained to the Sacred Priesthood during the years between 2004 and 2015 are kindly requested to attend this meeting without fail. This is for the purpose of a fraternal sharing of ideas.

While thanking you sincerely for the enthusiasm and dedication, of course each one in his own degree, with which you all have served the Diocese during the past year, let us all make a firm determination to do a little more for the Lord with extra dedication and zeal during the Year 2016, which covers the greater part of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. This is my prayer and wish for the New Year and the Jubilee Year.

With much love and the assurance of Prayers

Yours fraternally



+Cletus C. Perera OSB

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