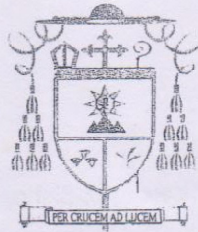
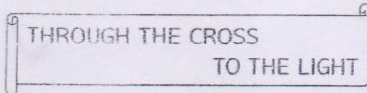


Bishop Cletus Chandrasiri Perera O.S.B.
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TO THE CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF RATNAPURA

Dear Rev Fathers and Deacons

God's Blessings and Fraternal Greetings

Now that we have begun the month of May, I am sure that most of you are carrying on the traditional May Devotions in various forms in your parishes. The Marian Devotion is something we have to encourage in our parishes, in our own lives as priests and in the lives of our faithful. Moreover our Diocese is dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, and we have to invoke her special intercession for our Diocese, and our priestly ministry.

1. The Priestly Ordination of Rev Deacons Sampath Wijeratne and Reginald Nonis will be held on Saturday the 21st May 2016 at 9.30 a.m. at St Mary's Church, Kegalle. As we thank God for the gifts of two more priests for the Diocese, I cordially invite you all to be present at the Ordination Service, followed by lunch at the Minor Seminary.

2. The next meeting of our Presbyterium will be held on Monday and Tuesday the 9th and 10 of May 2016 at the Bishop's House. We shall begin our meeting as usual at 4.30 p.m. on Monday and will conclude with lunch the following day. We hope to have 2 deans, appointed with your consultation for the two deaneries of Ratnapura and Kegalle, during the meeting on Monday.

We shall spend the following day as a **day of recollection**, conducted by Rev Fr Alwin Fernando of the Kandy Diocese. He will give us an elaborate in-put on "Misericordiae Vultus", the Bull of Indiction of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, on the currently celebrated Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Fr Alwin will touch on the various dimensions of the content of the this document and will give us a good informative reflection. You all are very earnestly requested to participate in the programmes of both these days. Anybody who is unable to participate is kindly requested to contact me personally, not by SMS or another person, and get himself excused, presenting valid reasons. This is demanded by discipline and courtesy.

3. I would like to remind you that, before you attend to any repairs to vehicles, church buildings, mission houses and other parish buildings, you have to obtain personally the prior permission of the Bishop/PG. It is not correct to do these repairs without their prior permission and send the bills to the PG.

Please remember that no officers, working in the office of the Bishop's House, are authorized to permit any such repairs. They have to be authorized only by the Bishop or PG. The expenses of the repairs, done without the prior permission of the Bishop or the PG, will not be met by the Diocese. This is once again a matter of discipline. Some seem to ignore this policy. I kindly request you to adhere to it strictly.

4. Rev Fr Sidath Wilegoda, after five years of overseas mission, is expected to come back to the Diocese on the 6th May this year. Fr Sidath is welcome back to our midst and is appointed as the Parish priest of Dehiowita with effect from the 7th May 2016.

Bishop's Assignments for May 2016

May 1: A Church Feast outside the Diocese.

May 3: Meeting of the Congress of Religions in Colombo

May 4: Meeting with the People of Deraniyagala

May 8: Confirmation Service at Rambukkana

May 9 and 10 : Presbyteral Meeting and Recollection at the Bishop's House.

May 12: Meeting of the Catholic National Commission for Inter-religious and Ecumenical Activities.

May 14: Pentecostal Vigil at Presansaramaya, Ragama.

May 15: Confirmation Service at Ruwanwella

May 21: Priestly ordination of Rev Deacon Sampath and Reginald.

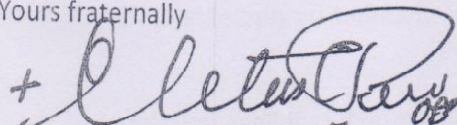
May 22: Feast of the Catholics of Negombo at Madhu

May 29: Church Feast at Bandarawatte, Seeduwa.

May 31: Clinique, General Hospital, Kandy.

With love and the assurance of prayers

Yours fraternally



+ Cletus C. Perera OSB

Bishop of Ratnapura