

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



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TO THE CLERGY AND THE RELIGIOUS OF THE DIOCESE OF RATNAPURA

Dear Rev Fathers and Sisters

God's Blessings and Fraternal Greetings

The month of October being the month of the Holy Rosary, has been also a festive month for many of our parishes. Many of our parish churches are dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary with their feasts, celebrated in October. I am happy to note that the beautiful tradition of taking the Statue of Our Lady from house to house or zone to zone, praying the Holy Rosary, in our parishes, is kept alive by some of our parish priests. We all know that the Holy Rosary is a power in our Diocese, parishes and families. It has to be kept always burning in our hearts.

I had the grace-filled privilege to visit the Shrine of Our Lady in Lourdes and to spend a few days there with some Sri Lankan pilgrims last week. At the feet of Our Lady, I prayed for our Diocese, specifically for the Priests and Religious.

1 DIOCESAN DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

In view of the current Year of Consecrated Life, we shall celebrate **our Diocesan Day of Consecrated Life on Tuesday the 27th October 2015 (Poya Day) at the Bishop's House. All Priests, both Diocesan and Religious, and all Religious Sisters, serving in the Diocese, are invited and are obliged to participate in this very important celebration. The day's programme, as planned by the organizing committee, will be as follows:**

8.30 a.m. Arrival and Tea at the Bishop's House.

9.00 a.m. A brief explanation (5 to 8 minutes) on each Religious Congregation, serving in the Diocese.

Posters can be displayed.

10.00 a. m: Talk and Discussion on the latest document "Misericordiae Vultus" (Merciful Face) of Pope

Francis on the Year of Mercy/ Extraordinary Jubilee Year, and on his Encyclical "Laudato Si'",

Facilitated by Very Rev Fr Jeyaraj Rasiah S.J., Provincial of the Society of Jesus.

10.45 a.m.: Tea Break

11.15 a.m.; Continuation of the Discussion

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

12.30 p.m.: Holy Mass, followed by lunch

2.00 p.m.: Documentary "Nomiyeṇa Minisun" (Immortal Souls) on Consecrated Life.

3.30 p.m.: Tea and End

2. THE ANNUAL RETREAT FOR THE PRIESTS will be held from Monday the 9th to Saturday the 14th November 2015 at Bulutota. Rev Fr Jayalath Balagalla O.P. will be the Preacher. All Diocesan Priests, including the ones who have made a Retreat at the Divine Retreat Centre, Chalakudy, are expected to participate in this Retreat which is an privileged time of grace and spiritual renewal by prayer, meditation, worship, and above all, by celebrating the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Confession. The Religious priests are excused if they have already made their Retreat in their respective Congregations. The Retreat is obligatory for all Diocesan Priests. If any priest who is unable to attend it for strictly valid and compelling reasons, is kindly requested to contact me personally and get himself excused.

You are kindly requested to come for lunch on Monday the 9th November. The Retreat will begin on Monday afternoon. **Please avoid coming late and leaving early.** You are earnestly requested to bring your Bibles and Breviaries with you.

3. Commemoration of the Dead.

We are entering into the month of November, which is dedicated to the commemoration of the dead. As we remember our loved ones who have left this world, let us not forget to pray for our deceased Bishops, priests and Religious who have toiled with many hardships to bring the Diocese to be what it is today. This is the greatest act of gratitude we can pay to them for all that they have done for us.

4. Some good news

1. The Kegalle parish group has been placed CHAMPIONS at the All-Island Bible Quiz English medium Intermediate Group competition.

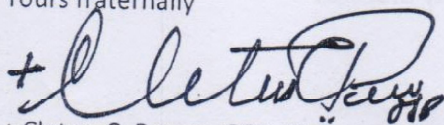
11. The Kegalle parish has been placed SECOND at the All-island Biblical Drama Competition, seniors.

111. The Kegalle parish group has been placed THIRD at the All-Island Biblical Drama Intermediate Sinhala medium competition

All these competitions were held on the 17th October 2015 under the patronage of the Department of Christian Religious Affairs. Our congratulations to the winners and grateful thanks to their trainers.

With much love and assurance of my prayers,

Yours fraternally



+ Cletus C. Perera OSB, Bishop of Ratnapura

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