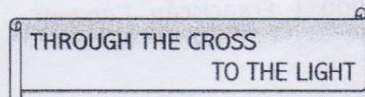


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30th October 2017: CL/PRES/RN 101

TO THE CLERGY AND THE RELIGIOUS OF THE DIOCESE OF RATNAPURA

Dear Rev Fathers and Sisters

God's Blessings and Fraternal Greetings

At the very outset, Let us raise our hearts and minds in thanksgiving to the Almighty for the successful celebration of the two St Joseph Vaz Rallies in the two deaneries. I thank the two deans particularly and all those priests and sisters who did their best to make the two events meaningful and successful.

I thank the Parish Priests and Assistants for getting the people to participate in the two events, thus paying our humble tribute to this unique Missionary Priest who has historically become a visible testimony of God's love, care and concern for us the Sri Lankan Catholics.

It was significant and interesting to note that many activities of the year, such as church feasts, youth activities, children's programmes, catechetical-biblical programmes and many others have been geared towards the theme of the "Life and Mission of St Joseph Vaz". This is very much appreciable.

1. "ST JOSEPH VAZ NATIONAL RALLY", organized by the C. N. C. for the Laity, as you are already informed, will be held on **Saturday the 4th November 2017 at St Anthony's Shrine, Wahakotte**. The day's programme begins at 11.00 a.m. with an exhibition on Saturday and ends up with Holy Mass at 5.00 a.m. on Sunday. It includes an all- night- prayer- vigil as well. Those who can participate in this important event. are very much urged to do so.

2. **THE ANNUAL RETREAT FOR THE CLERGY** will be held, as planned, from **Monday the 13th to Saturday the 18th November 2017 at Bulutota**. The preacher will be Rev Fr Vimal Thirimanne CSsR. You are kindly requested to bring your Bibles and Breviaries. All participants are expected to arrive at Bulutota for lunch on Monday the 13th November. The Retreat begins in the afternoon the same day.

The Annual Retreat is compulsory for all priests. Therefore nobody is dispensed from it except for very **compelling and serious reasons** which have to be personally intimated to me. You are kindly requested to avoid coming late, going out while the Retreat is on, and leaving before the Retreat is over.

3. **The Annual Christmas Get-together** for the Religious Sisters will be held on Monday the 11th December 2017 at 10.00 a.m. at the Bishop's House, while the one for the Priests will be held the following day, Tuesday the 12th December evening at Bulutota. Please have these dates free. The names of those, appointed to organize the two programmes are as follows: Rev Frs Reginald Nonis (Head),

Sampath Wijeratne , Shane Wickramasinghe, Rev Srs Rositha Fernando (Franciscan Convent, Dehiowita) and Veronica (G.S Convent, Yatiyantota).

4. It is good to keep in mind that our Diocese is completing the 25th Year of its existence on the 2nd November 2020. We have to plan out a meaningful preparation in order to have a meaningful celebration of the Silver Jubilee. You will kindly remember that we appointed a Task Force for it at our Presbyteral meeting on the 12th July 2016. The names of the members of the Task Force are as follows:

(1). Bishop Cletus Perera osb (Chairperson). (11). Very Rev Fr Damian Fernando, V.G. (Vice-Chairperson)

(111). Rev Fr Milton Wickramasinghe, Chancellor. (1V). Rev Fr Sidath Wilegoda , P.G (Secretary)

(V). Rev Fr Roland Rodrigo, Archivist. (V1). Rev Fr Emil Fernando, Dean

(V11). Jeewantha Peiris, Dean. (V111). Rev Fr Ranjanmal Moraes

(1X). Rev Fr Sanjeewa Peiris. (X). Rev Fr B.A. Sriyan Fderando

(X1). Rev Fr Anton Maurice. (X11). Rev Fr Anscar Wijeatne SSS

(X111). Rev Fr Roshan Tissera TOR. (X1V). Rev Fr Romesh Paniyandi

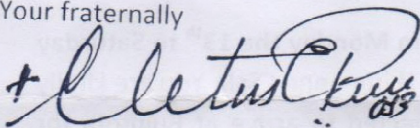
(XV). Rev Fr Nicholas Gabriel. (XV1). Rev Sr. Veronica (Good Shepherd Convent, Yatiyantota)

(XV11) Rev Sr Madeline Moraes (Franciscan Convent, Dehiowita). (XV111) Rev Sr Yogarani (Sisters of Charity Convent, Ratnapura)

I shall call up a meeting on a convenient day in November or December this year. We have to organize parish / deanery / diocesan level preparatory activities. If you have any practical suggestions, you are welcome to bring them up at the meeting to be held.

With love, Prayers and kind regards

Your fraternally



+ Cletus C. Perera OSB

Bishop of Ratnapura