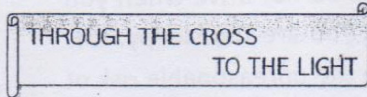


Bishop Cletus Chandrasiri Perera O.S.B.
Bishop of Ratnapura



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27th December 2017: CL/PRES/RN 105

TO THE PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE OF RATNAPURA

Dear Rev Fathers

God's Blessings and Fraternal Greetings

Having concluded the year 2017, we have now launched into the New Year 2018. I take this opportunity to thank you and express my appreciation for the work you are doing for the Diocese and our people. I have been very much touched and impressed by the dedication of most of you to the well-being of the Diocese and our people. This is a grace from above for the Bishop and the Diocese.

I pray for you every day that the Lord may keep you happy and steadfast in your vocation and priestly ministry so that you may continue to live your priestly vocation well and exercise your ministry fruitfully.

1. The next meeting of the Prebyterium will be held on Monday and Tuesday the 8th and 9th January 2018, with a little bit of "happy hour" on Monday evening in view of the gift of a New Year 2018, which is another period of God's precious time, given to us, to serve Him and His People.

The Presbyteral meeting, as usual, begins on Monday at 4.30 p.m. All priests are obliged to attend it. The regular absence of a priest at the Presbyteral meetings, can lead him to the ignorance of what is discussed and decided upon at the meeting. What is worst is that it can lead the priest to estrangement and isolation, and to be a "loner". None of us want to be strangers or loners in our own household.

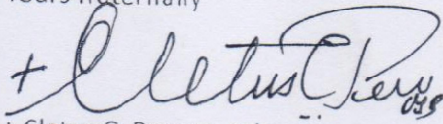
2. I would like to remind you through this Clergy letter that all structural changes, alterations, extensions, renovations to existing buildings, construction of new buildings in a parish, have to be done with the prior approval of the Bishop. This is also applicable to the installation of statues either in the church premises or outside. If it is a major project, it is discussed also at the College of Consulters which is Bishop's Council before the Bishop's approval is granted. This is demanded by our Diocesan "Policies and Statutes" nos. '8,7 and 8. (pg. 18). Such major projects have to be implemented with the monitoring by the Diocesan Building Committee. This is a disciplinary regulation which has to be strictly observed both by the diocesan and religious priests, serving in the Diocese.

3. The priests who have come into the Presbyterium recently, may not be having the copies of the "Diocesan Pastoral Plan" and "Policies and Statutes". Those who do not have them can obtain a copy from me.

3. I repeat. Please look after your health and vehicles as best as you can. Please do not drive **when you are not fit to do so**, i.e. when you are too tired, or having broken rest, when you are too sleepy. It is cheaper to hire a vehicle in such conditions and go on your errand than to take the unreasonable risk of driving and meeting with possible accidents, thus incurring unbearable expenses to be paid by the poor Diocese, for your own medication and repairs to vehicles, even at times, for compensation to be paid to the grieved parties. This is unfair by the Diocese.

May God bless you. With the assurance my prayers, with love and all best wishes,

Yours fraternally



+ Cletus C. Perera osb

Bishop of Ratnapura

BISHOP'S DIARY: JANUARY 2018

December 30, 2017: Installation of H.L Bishop Emmanuel, in Mannar.

December 31, 2017: New Year Midnight Mass at the Cathedral, Ratnapura.

January 1 : New Year Morning Mass at Dehigahapitiya Parish.

January 4 : Inauguration of the New Academic Year, St J.V. Dheva Dharma Nikethanaya, Borella.

January 6 : Consecration of the New Anglican Bishop of Kurunegala.

January 7: Holy Mass in Kegalle with the Vicar General of the Diocese of Verona.

January 8: Meeting of the Diocesan Silver Jubilee Committee / Task Force in the morning.

January 8 and 9 : Presbyteral Meetings

January 13 : Holy Mass at Sri Jayawardanapura University.

January 14 : Memorial Mass for late Fr Adolfo Davi OMI at Seeduwa.

January 21 : Annual Convention of The Sri Lanka Cursillo Movement.

January 27 : Confirmation Service at Keerapathdeniya.

January 28 : Church Feast, Udawalawe.