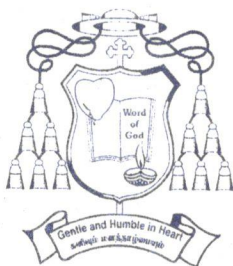


Most Rev. Dr. A. Stephen

Bishop of Tuticorin

Tel : 0461 - 2320035 (Off)



Catholic Bishop's House,
82, Great Cotton Road,
Tuticorin - 628 001. INDIA.

E-mail : sthevantuticorin@gmail.com

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Circular No.4 / 2024

Dear Reverend Fathers,

My cordial greetings to you!

The annual retreat for the Diocesan Clergy is indeed a God-given opportunity to take a trip down memory lane and make introspection about one's personal life and make a sincere assessment about all that one has done in the past one year. It is no exaggerated rhetoric if we say that it (the retreat) prepares the ground for achieving what is known as self-discovery. It goes without saying that the retreat is indeed a **time of grace** during which we are naturally inclined to crave for Divine love.

As you are going to make your annual retreat in three batches in the near future, I am very happy to wish you all a happy and fruitful retreat. At this stage I would like to bring to your kind attention the following:

1. The annual retreat for a priest is highly obligatory (Can. 276 §2, 4°) not merely voluntary. You have been repeatedly told that in case, forced by circumstances, you are unable to take part in the annual retreat you ought to get prior permission from me.
2. You will certainly be required to find suitable time and place to make your retreat at your earliest convenience.
3. You are kindly reminded that you need to be unfailingly present for all that is connected with the retreat such as morning prayer, spiritual talks, Eucharistic Adoration and the Holy Mass.
4. It is very much imperative that you maintain both internal and external silence all through the annual retreat.

In fine, kindly consider the annual retreat NOT as a burden, but as a GREAT OPPORTUNITY to renew yourselves internally and spiritually. I assure you of my prayerful support to enable you to reap a great spiritual harvest by means of the retreat to be made by you.

With my love and paternal blessing,

Most Rev. Dr. A. Stephen
Bishop of Tuticorin

