

Patriarchal Message

His Holiness Moran Mor Ignatius Zakka I Iwas

Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, the Supreme Head of the

Universal Syrian Orthodox Church

at the

St. MARY'S CATHEDRAL KOTHAMANGALAM

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the One True God. Amen.

Your Beatitude, our beloved Brother-in-Christ Catholicos Mor Baselios Thomas I, Your Eminences our Beloved Metropolitans, Very Rev. Corepiscopos and Rambachans, Reverend Vicar and Assistant Vicars of this church, Reverend Priests, Deacons, Devoted Nuns and our beloved spiritual children.

We are very happy to be here with you all, and we thank God for enabling us to visit this blessed church again now. This church is one of the ancient churches of Malankara and it has celebrated its fifteenth centenary celebrations last year. It has a membership of more than thousand families and it shines on this mount as a source of blessing for many. We recall with joy our visiting and

staying at your Parish during our First Apostolic Visit to India in 1982 and also in 2004. We are also pleased to understand that, from the beginning you have stood firm and loyal to our Holy Apostolic See of Antioch and All the East, and was zealous in keeping the apostolic faith and traditions of our Holy Universal Syrian Orthodox Church. Again, we are happy to note that during the 26 years His Beatitude stayed here as the Diocesan Metropolitan of Ankamaly, you helped and supported His Beatitude a lot.

Our beloved spiritual children, we entreat you along with the blessed Apostle Mor Paulose Sleeho: **“Ever follow what is good, both among your selves and to all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks to God for everything; for this is the will of God concerning you”** (1.Thessalonians chapter 5:15-18). Thus always follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Be true witnesses of our Lord Jesus. Abide in Him always and He shall protect you from all evil. Submit ourselves to the will of God following the model of our Holy

Mother St. Mary. May God bless you all through the Intercession of the Holy Virgin Mother of God, Saint Baselious Yaldho Maphriyono and all the other saints.