

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

MAZHUVANNOOR: OCTOBER 27, 2008

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 Priests, Deacons and our beloved spiritual children.

We are very happy to be with you all at this occasion of the consecration of this beautiful church in the name of the Patron saint of India - Mor Thomas Sleeho. We understand that this church - more than hundred 150 years old, is one of the important churches of this region and it has a membership of more than

thousand families. We are now happy to see your growth and to rededicate this new house built by your hard efforts for the Glory of our Lord and for the edification of the faithful. We understand the tireless efforts of its vicars, especially the former Vicar Very Reverend Corepiscopo. P.V. Paulose Parathuvayalil who initiated the reconstruction and Reverend Fr.Varghese Molekkudy - the Assistant Vicar, and the faithful in making this mission a grand success. We congratulate you all who gave their sincere supports and prayers for the same. This is now a place of grace and blessing for this whole region. Our Lord declared that the temple of God is a 'house of prayer for all'. So if you come and pray here with faith and reverence to God, you will surely be blessed. May this house of prayer – this new church – be a source of blessing to all who come here and pray.

Also we are pleased to note that this church had always stood firm in its love and faithfulness to the holy Petrine throne of Antioch and to us. It was always in the forefront, along with His beatitude in protecting the true faith of our Holy Universal Syrian Orthodox Church. We appreciate your steadfast love and loyalty to our Holy Apostolic See of Antioch and All the East.

Our beloved spiritual children, at this occasion of the consecration of this church, rededicate yourselves to God and to His church. In the books of Moses – the Pentateuch - we repeatedly read the commandment of God, that : “*Be holy as I am holy*”. God wants that, His children should bear His image of goodness and Holiness. So let us strive to transform ourselves to the image of God and to follow His virtues. May our God in Heaven hear and answer your prayers and bless you all. Amen.

