

*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***

***PUTHUPALLY CHURCH***

***(October 24, 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 and Deacons,  
Devoted Nuns, Distinguished Guests, and our beloved  
spiritual children.

St. Paul the Apostle says in his Epistle to the  
Romans (Chapter 8, Verse 35): “Who shall separate us  
from the love of Christ? Tribulation or distress, or  
persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or  
sword?” True to his declaration, nothing separated him  
from the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, and he sacrificed

everything, even his life, to witness our Lord Jesus. As we stand here today, in this new house of prayer, we glorify God Almighty with great joy; because we stand with a people who are the living examples of the great sacrifice of St. Paul the Apostle. Our beloved spiritual children – the Reverend Clergy and all the Faithful of our St. George Parish, here – we know the many hardships and the heavy losses that you had to suffer to protect your true faith. Our beloved Brother-in-Christ His Beatitude Catholicos Mor Baselios Thomas I and the Metropolitan of your Diocese, His Eminence Mor Themotheos Thomas have explained to us about it. You lost all your possessions but you never gave up the true apostolic faith and traditions of our Holy Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch. And instead of all that you lost, the merciful God has today blessed you with a wonderful place to worship Him – this new church. God never forsakes those who trust and remain in Him! God is indeed with you!

On this blessed occasion, we congratulate and bless each and every one of you who have worked hard to complete the construction of this house of prayer for God. May He lead you in the paths of righteousness all through your lives and always protect you from all evil. And may God bless you all through the intercession of St. Mary the Mother of God, St. Peter the Chief of the Apostles, St. Thomas the Apostle of India and your Patron Saint St. George the Martyr. Amen.