

*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***

***RAKKAD CHURCH***

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, Their Eminences  
the Metropolitans, and our beloved spiritual children:  
the Very Reverend Corepiscopos, the Reverend Vicars  
of this church, Priests, Deacons, Nuns and our beloved  
spiritual children.

We are very happy to be with you all in this blessed  
church, in the name of St. Mary, the mother of God.  
This church founded by the saintly father Mor Ivanios  
Hidayathulla had always stood steadfast in its true  
Apostolic faith upholding its strong allegiance to the

Holy see of Antioch and All The East. You have now received us joyfully along with our assistant metropolitans and the other delegates of the Holy throne, who have accompanied us in this Apostolic visit. We understand your extreme love and your concern for us and to the Holy throne of St. Peter. God has blessed you all and this whole region through the Intercession of the Holy virgin mother of God, and that of its founder father. This church is considered to be a blessed pilgrim centre for numerous people, not only to Christians but also for those belonging to different religions even from distant places, who come here and pray beseeching the intercession of St. Mary the Mother of God. Many seek blessings through their vows and offerings to this church. God our merciful Lord blesses them all by opening His heavenly treasures.

On this occasion, we congratulate all of you for your achievements to this day and entreat all of you to follow the example of St. Mary. Always meditate her complete

submission to the will of God. Lead a life of prayer, and be always merciful to our fellow brothers We would remind you what the blessed Apostle St. Paul advises us in **Ephesians** Chapter 6, verses 13 to 18: **“Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, by wearing the belt of truth around your waist, with the breast-plate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith. .... Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all”**

Our dear spiritual children, we pray our Lord Jesus to hear your prayers, to see your good works and to

reward you not only in this world but also in the world to come. May God bless you all.