

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

MALANKARA SYRIAN ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

UDAYAGIRI, MULANTHURUTHY, KERALA, INDIA

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, Reverend Priests and Deacons, Respected Nuns, All Members of the Executive Committee and all the Staff and Students of our Malankara Syrian Orthodox Theological Seminary in India ●

We are very glad to be with you all now at this Seminary ● During His public ministry, many people followed our Lord Jesus Christ wherever He went ● But He chose from among them twelve persons to be with Him always and to

learn from Him ● Our Lord taught and trained them for the mission He had called them ● Before His ascension into Heaven, our Lord commanded them: **“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have enjoined you”** ● (St. Mathew 28: 19, 20) Our Holy Church is fulfilling this command of our Lord Jesus through the spiritual leaders, especially, the Clergy ● And, therefore, this Seminary which teaches and trains people who are preparing to be Priests and spiritual guides has great importance ●

Our Lord Jesus taught not only by word of mouth, but also by His good deeds in loving and caring for the people ● In other words, His words and deeds were the same ● If the teachers teach about the need for loving God and fellow human beings, but at the same time they do not love God or their fellow human beings, then their teaching will be of no use ● All teachers should take care to practice what they preach ● Only then their teaching mission will be a success ●

And the students, on their part, too, have a great responsibility • You are the ones to lead and serve God's people tomorrow • It is God's will that you are all here now to learn the Word of God and to receive training to be God's chosen servants • If you do not make good use of this opportunity God has given you, it will be a big loss for you • Learn the Holy Scriptures well • Understand the will of God and live according to it • Love our Lord and God Jesus Christ and all fellow human beings • Always abide in our Lord • He, who is the Light of the World, will enlighten you with His Divine wisdom • Just as He made simple fishermen, His chosen Apostles with great power in word and deed, He will bless you too • Always be faithful in your calling as servants of God and He will be with you always •

We last visited this Seminary in 2004 during our Third Apostolic Visit to India • Since then the Seminary has made much progress • We take this opportunity to congratulate all Members of the Executive Committee, the Staff and the

Students for their hard work and cooperation in achieving this progress • We specially congratulate our beloved Brother-in-Christ His Beatitude Catholicos Mor Baselios Thomas I under whose guidance and supervision this Seminary is being managed, and also Their Eminences Metropolitan Mor Severios Abraham who is the President of the Seminary Executive Committee and Mor Theophilose Kuriakose the Resident Metropolitan and Very Rev. Corepiscopo Dr. Adai Jacob the Principal of this Seminary for their able leadership • May God bless this Seminary and all who are associated with it so that it may produce good fruits thirty-fold, sixty-fold and a hundred-fold • May this Seminary be a blessing to our whole Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch • May God bless you all •