

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

THIRUVALLA: OCTOBER 23, 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, Dedicated Nuns and our
beloved spiritual children.

We recall with joy our visiting this parish of our
Niranam Diocese and offering Holy Qurbono here
during our First Apostolic Visit to India in 1982
when the late lamented Metropolitan Mor Coorilos
Kuriakose was in charge of our Niranam,
Thumpamon and Kollam Dioceses. At that time this

was a small chapel. We are now happy to see your growth and to consecrate this new and beautiful church that you have built for the glory of God and the edification of the faithful. It is worthy to note that you have achieved this growth in the midst of many hardships. You had to suffer much persecution from the enemies of our Holy Church to protect the true apostolic faith and traditions of our Holy Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch. And you had to suffer much loss. But God has been with you in all your sufferings and has blessed you just as He blessed Job the Just, after his trials and tribulations.

We appreciate your steadfast love and loyalty to our Holy Apostolic See of Antioch and All the East and to us. And we congratulate and bless our beloved Metropolitan His Eminence Mor Coorilos Geevarghese of Niranam and all the Reverend Clergy and the Laity of the Diocese of Niranam, and

especially, the members of this parish for their achievement in building this big and beautiful church. And in view of the importance of this church to our Niranam Diocese, we now declare it a 'Cathedral'. May this be a blessing to you all.

The Patron Saint of this church is St. George the Martyr who is a model for sacrifice and sufferings. He witnessed our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ with his own blood. May he be an example for you to face all hardships with courage taking refuge in our Lord. 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 for 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. May the God in Heaven hear and answer your prayers and bless you all. Amen.

