

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

PANAMPADY 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, Your Eminences our Beloved Metropolitans, Very Rev. Corepiscopos and Rambachans, Reverend Priests and Deacons, Devoted Nuns and our beloved spiritual children.

It gives us great joy to be with you today at this blessed church. This is a church which has been the residence of some of the true leaders of our Holy Church in India. The late Malankara Metropolitan, the saintly sage, Mor Coorilos Paulose spent the last days of his life here. It is significant to note that when the enemies of our Holy Church persecuted him, this church

gladly received him. His mortal remains are interred here and his tomb is a source of blessing for all. So too, the blessed tomb of the late lamented Metropolitan Mor Dionysius Michael, whose great faith in, and loyalty to our Holy Apostolic See of Antioch was and, still is, a source of inspiration to all, is also situated at this church. The fact that these blessed Fathers of our Holy Church in India chose to stay at this church shows the love and consideration of the members of this church towards God's servants. It also reveals their firm love and loyalty to our Holy Apostolic See of Antioch and All the East and to us. Our beloved spiritual children: God shall surely reward you for your love and loyalty to your spiritual Fathers and to our Holy See of Antioch.

And on this blessed occasion, we exhort you all to follow the life of prayer of Saint Coorilos Paulose and to remain steadfast in the apostolic faith and traditions of our Holy Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch like the late Metropolitan Mor Dionysius Michael of blessed

memory. May God hear your prayers and see your faith and bless you all. Amen.