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SYRIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE

OF ANTIOCH & ALL THE EAST

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DAMASCUS - SYRIA



باب توما - ص.ب ٢٢٢٦٠  
دمشق - سورية

BY THE GRACE OF GOD

**Ignatius Zakka I Iwas**  
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East  
Supreme Head of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church



No.E98/11

14-April-2011

Apostolic Benediction to our beloved to our beloved Brother-in-Christ: His Beatitude Catholicos Mor Baselios Thomas I of our Jacobite Syrian Church in India and all the Metropolitans and to our beloved spiritual children: the Venerable Corepiscopos, Esteemed Priests, Reverend Deacons, Devoted Nuns and all the faithful of all our Malankara Jacobite Syrian churches and congregations all over the world.

It is by the great mercy and grace of God we are celebrating the feast of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are glad to share with you the Peace and Joy of a blessed Easter even though we undergo a lot of persecution and suffering all over the world especially in the Middle East. It is a time for testing to us, to go through many kinds of pain, to be in fear and in anxiety over many matters, to be tortured by the violent oppressors. However, the risen Lord is the comfort and solace for us even in the midst of difficulties. For our Lord exhorts to us in the Gospel, **"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."** (St. John 14:27). To find comfort in the word of God and in the holy sacraments along with prayer and penitence for the repentance of all the evil doers and sinful people is the need of the time now. The risen Lord gives us a new hope in the suffering of us in the world of sin and death that He conquered every satanic evil and the frightening smacks of death. Every family should realize the call to live a holy life during this time of Easter. As we celebrate this Holy Feast, it reminds us that peace is the result of righteousness. **"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness suppress the truth."** (Romans 1:18). Truth is suppressed by our wicked sins especially that of pride, violence, hatred and impurity and the wrath of God is revealed at present. Therefore, dearly beloved, we implore you all to take a decision at this year's Easter with the help of the risen Lord to put an end to any kind of violence in the society, infidelity among the married couples, abortion in the families, pornography through the media, perverted homosexuality and alcoholism especially among the youth; in order to regain the grace and peace of the reign of God. Dearly beloved, our Lord reminds us in the holy gospel that **"I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world"**. (St. John 16:33). We exhort you to pray for all the people who undergo tribulation, especially those in the Middle East, to find hope and peace in the risen Lord. We wish you all a blessed and happy Easter and extend our Apostolic Blessings to you. May the grace of God be with you all forever, through the intercession of St. Mary – the Mother of God and all the martyrs and saints, Amen. **ܐܘܨܝܢܐ ܕܩܝܫܘܬܐ ܕܩܝܫܘܬܐ ܕܩܝܫܘܬܐ ܕܩܝܫܘܬܐ**