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SYRIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE
OF ANTIOCH & ALL THE EAST
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باب توما - ص.ب. ٢٢٢٦٠
دمشق - سورية

BY THE GRACE OF GOD

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

No.E276/13



٢٦-December-2013
اختتامه

Apostolic benediction to our beloved Brother-in-Christ His Beatitude Catholicos Mor Baselios Thomas I, Their Eminences the Metropolitans and our beloved spiritual children: the Very Reverend Corepiscopos, Venerable Monks, Esteemed Priests, Reverend Deacons, Respected Nuns and all the faithful of our Jacobite Syrian Christian Church in India

Inquiring your welfare we inform you the following: We are happy to know that the twenty fourth Akhila Malankara Gospel Convention will start today at our Patriarchal Centre in Puthencruz. We are glad that the theme for this year's convention is to "**Stand firm**" (*Exodus 14:13*). It is the exhortation of Moses to the people of God that "**Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today.**" Here, Moses added that "**The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.**" (*Exodus 14:14*). In the present context it is appropriate that you have chosen this theme for our Gospel Convention. We live today in a world of turmoil and violence. There is a lot of temptation in the world to lose the true faith of Saint Peter. There are a lot of peddlers of God's word who twist them for their own interests. There are many who turn away from true faith and use the scripture for the sake of money. People go after prosperity gospel. At this time we have to stand firm on the true faith of Saint Peter who declared Jesus as "**Christ, the son of the Living God (St. Matthew 16;16)**". We exhort all of you to find solace in the living and active words of God and continue to stand firm in the loyalty to the Holy Throne of Antioch. We wish you all the very best for the gospel convention and seeking your prayers. We extend our Apostolic Blessings to you. May the Grace of God be with you all.

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