

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

CHELAD ST. STEPHEN'S BES' ANIA 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 Reverend Corepiscopos and Rambachans, The reverend Vicars of this Church, reverend Priests and Deacons, and our beloved spiritual children ●

We are very happy to be with you here today ● This church in the name of St. Sthephanos Sohodo is one of the important churches of the region ● As we understand, it has a membership of more than thousand families ● This church was always in the forefront in defending the true apostolic faith and traditions of our Holy Syrian Church ● Ever since it has stood firm in its faith and

loyalty to our Holy Apostolic See of Antioch and all the east • We appreciate your firm faith and loyalty to our Holy See of Antioch and to us • The holy relics of Mor Bahanam Sohdo, interred in this church is a source of blessing for all • Another important thing which we learned is that the chapel of this church in the name of Mor Geevarghese Sohdo is a source of blessings and miracles for people, even from distant places • Also the educational institutions run by this church is doing glorious services in the field of academics •

By considering the importance of this church, and by considering the request of our beloved brother in Christ: Catholicos Mor Baselious Thomas first, we are pleased to raise this church to the status of '**Iitho Rabtho**' ('**Valiya Palli**' in Malayalam) • From now onwards this church shall be known as: **St. Stephen's Beth Aniyu Valiya Palli** •

Our dear spiritual children, on this occasion, we exhort you with St. Paul the Apostle: "**Never lag in zeal, be fervent in the Spirit and serve the Lord** •" (Romans 12:11) Follow the good example of your Patron Saint:

Mor Stephanos Sohdo who bore witness in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ ● Be true witnesses of our Lord Jesus ● Abide in Him always and He shall protect you from all evil ● May He bless you all ●