

The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church CATHOLICATE OF THE EAST

BASELIOS MARTHOMA PAULOSE II
CATHOLICOS OF
THE APOSTOLIC THRONE OF
ST. THOMAS
AND MALANKARA METROPOLITAN



CATHOLICATE PALACE
KOTTAYAM-686 038
KERALA, INDIA

23 April 2013

Blessings to all of you in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity:

Dearlly beloved,

It is with great shock that we have learned that His Grace Boulos Yazigi Metropolitan of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo and Mor Gregorios Youhanna Ibrahim of the Syrian Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo had been kidnapped by the terrorists who themselves identified as a group from Chichan, in the Turkish borders of Syria. This, in fact, is a grievous occasion for both the Byzantine and Oriental Orthodox families of Churches, in particular, while of course, should be a matter of greater concern of prayer for all the Christians around the world.

We have already conveyed our prayerful integrity to Mr. Razek Siriani, the Ecumenical Relations and Relief Officer of the Syrian Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo. We do earnestly pray for the secure return of the Bishops while condemning the event as heartless and inhuman. We request all of you to hold the Bishops and the respective Churches in your earnest prayers for their safe and secure return.

Let us remain hopeful in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We leave you all to the love and care of our good Lord.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Baselios Marthoma Paulose II', written in a cursive style.

Baselios Marthoma Paulose II