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SYRIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE
OF ANTIOCH & ALL THE EAST

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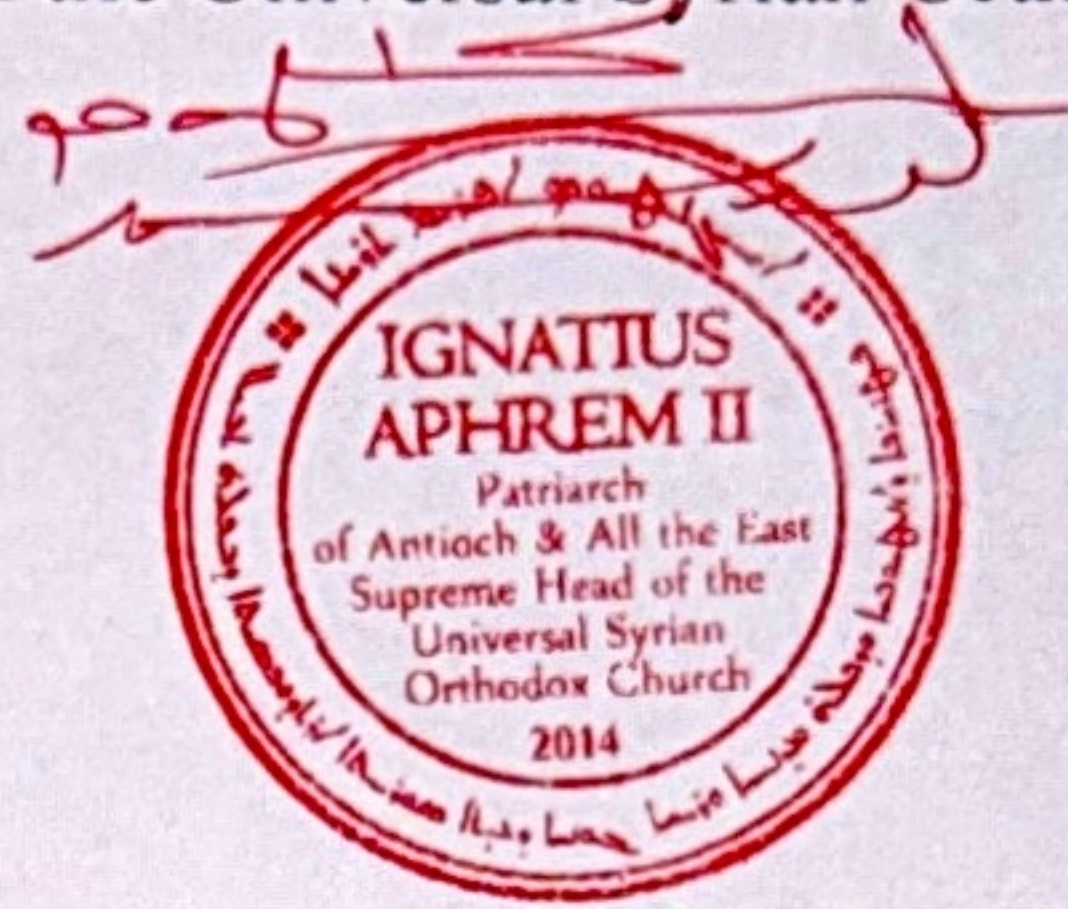
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No. EN 156/25

April 12, 2025

By the Grace of God
Ignatius Aphrem II
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East
Supreme Head of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church



Apostolic Benediction to our brother in Christ His Eminence Mor Yacoub Eduardo Aguirre, Archbishop of Central America, their Graces the Bishops, priests, presidents of councils, committees, associations and the faithful members of the Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese of Central America.

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

We thank the Lord for the continued growth, both in faith and in numbers, of our Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese of Central America. We pray that our church will continue to walk in the light of Christ and build His Kingdom in your hearts.

We received positive feedback from His Eminence Mor Yacoub Eduardo, Archbishop of Central America, about your efforts to maintain peace, order and discipline in the Archdiocese. We have also learned that the transition to the new structure of the Archdiocese has been smooth and beneficial, and this reflects the strength of our Church in Central America and the unity in the spirit of the clergy and faithful.

At this time, we would like to remind you all of the importance of preserving the sacred traditions of our Holy Church. These traditions are the pillars that support our Antiochian faith and ensure that the true teachings of our Holy Fathers are passed down through the generations. In this regard, we would like to emphasize the proper titles and forms of address as prescribed by our sacred canons. We do not use the title "Primate Bishop"; the Archbishop is the head of the Archdiocese and is to be referred to as "His Eminence", while the diocesan Bishops are referred to as "His Grace", as is fitting for their respective offices. It is essential that, in all our prayers, liturgies, and ecclesiastical correspondences, the proper titles should be observed with due reverence.

Moreover, in accordance with the ancient canons of our Fathers, we remember in the first diptych of the Divine Liturgy the living fathers as follows: His Holiness the Patriarch, followed by His Eminence the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Central America, and then His Grace the local bishop of each diocese. This order of remembrance should be strictly followed as prescribed by our sacramental canons and the long-standing traditions of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch. By keeping this sacred tradition, we honor our shared heritage and uphold the sanctity of the Holy Church.

As we approach the blessed season of Easter, we extend our fatherly blessings to you all. May the grace of our risen Lord strengthen you in your mission and may the joy of the Resurrection fill your hearts.

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