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**“Jesus looked at them and said, for men this is impossible, but for God everything is possible.” Matthew 19:26**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

The church commemorates one of its great saints on 17<sup>th</sup> January each year and in 2016 the feast of Saint Anthony the Great is on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January which also marks 1000 days (ONE THOUSAND DAYS) since the abduction of our Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Mor Gregorius Yohanna Ibrahim and Greek Orthodox Archbishop Boulos Yazigi of Aleppo.

The two Archbishops are not foreign to St. Anthony’s life or his message as both followed in His footsteps and later became leaders in their Archdioceses leading the flock in line with the teachings of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is worthwhile today to recall that day in 2013, when the two Archbishops (i.e. Ibrahim and Yazigi) were on a humanitarian mission on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 to help free other hostages but instead they were held against their will.

- Is this the reward of those who seek compassion?
- Is this the treatment that awaits those who help build their community?

It has been a long 1000 days (ONE THOUSAND DAYS) in the life of the children of the church awaiting to hear about the two Archbishops who are dearly missed by their Archdioceses and the whole church at this difficult time.

We pray to God the Almighty to hear our prayers and to answer our supplications that we make in the name of His only begotten Son to return the two Archbishops unharmed to their churches and to release all those who were kidnapped and held against their will.

**“Jesus said to them, because of your unbelief; for truly I say to you, if there is faith in you even as a grain of mustard, you will say to this mountain, 'Move away from here', and it will move away; and nothing would prevail over you”.** Matthew 17:20

We call upon the people of good will and those in offices of power to help secure the return of all the abducted unharmed including the two archbishops.

**“The Peace of our LORD Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.” 2 Corinthians 13:14**

In His Service

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