

Statement
Issued by His Grace Bishop Mar Bawai Soro
San Jose, CA; Saturday; 3 November 2007

1. After offering gratitude to Almighty God for His mercy and blessings in our lives, I wish to thank all our brothers and sisters in Christ who prayed for peace, called to express their love and continue their support.
2. Concerning the civil aspect of our case, on October 25, 2007, the Superior Court of California (County of Santa Clara) reached its decision concerning the issue of the property dispute with the Assyrian Church of the East. As law-abiding citizens of America, I have, along with our clergy and faithful, accepted the Court's decision and agreed to transfer all such properties, financial and administration records to the other side. Just as always, all properties of the Diocese were registered under the name of both corporations. Our side has no intention of appealing this court's decision in order to shorten the period of pain for our people and to lessen the financial burden on them.
3. In regard to the religious aspect, we feel more than ever motivated to pursue the much needed principles of our movement: *accountability, reform and unity*. For us, victory was never about buildings & land parcels. It has always been about offering Christian salvation and spiritual upbuilding to our faithful, restoring unity among all branches of the Church of the East, bridging the theological gap with the Protestants, re-establishing communion with other Christians, financially helping our needy people in the Middle East, and bringing unity to the Chaldo-Assyrian communities of Iraq so that our people's rights are protected and their future is secured in our homeland. Our movement therefore by God's grace shall continue and must further grow.
4. In the past two years, I have stated several times that our side would not establish a new independent branch of the Church of the East, nor would it abandon or replace Church of the East tradition with another one. We are and shall always remain faithful to the Lord, worshipping Him within the Church of the East patrimony. Practically speaking, this means that we as a Diocese (i.e., a bishop, priests, deacons & faithful) shall unite with one of the two remaining branches of the Church of the East Tradition: either the Ancient Church of the East or the Chaldean Catholic Church.
5. To reach such an objective, our diocesan priestly council (bishop and six priests) intends to pursue official talks with both branches of the Church of the East in order to discern the more suitable and final path that leads towards the perfection of love, which is unity. This dialogue shall be based on, and determined by, the following principles:
 - A. The Will of the Lord Jesus Christ for His Church as expressed in the Sacred Scriptures.
 - B. The Church of the East's comprehensive patrimony (liturgy, canons & Church Fathers) concerning the meaning and the nature of the particular and universal Church, and in regard to the historical experience of our forefathers.
 - C. The contemporary circumstances and the needs of our people in the present time.
6. In conclusion, I pray that you and your loved ones are always protected. May the Lord show you His love and guide you with His wisdom. May God grant our people and churches peace and unity and a renewed confidence and faith. Amen.