



Our first goal must be the deepening of prayer, for it is written: “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Without prayer, no work prospers; with prayer, even small labours yield great fruit.

Secondly, we must strengthen the teaching of the Scriptures in every home, that the faithful may say with the Psalmist: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Thirdly, we must nurture charity among brethren, remembering that “faith without works is dead” (James 2:26). In giving to the poor, in visiting the sick, in comforting the sorrowful, we embody the life of Mshikha among us.

And lastly, let us never forsake unity. For the Apostle beseeches us: “that to you all there may be one language; and that there may be no divisions among you: but that you may become perfectly of one mind, and of one way of thinking” (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Therefore, my dearly beloved, as we go forward, let us keep our eyes upon the Lord, who alone is the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). Let us pursue no lofty designs apart from Him, but in every endeavour let us pray, “If the Lord please, and we live, we will do this or that” (James 4:15).

May all that is set before us be marked by humility, order, charity, and that holy simplicity which belongs to the Gospel of Mshikha. Thus may we walk in the old paths, wherein is the good way, and find rest for our souls (Jeremiah 6:16).

Given this day, with a heart resolved to serve, and with trust in Maran’s unfailing mercy:

*+Mar Mattai Beita d’Mshikha*

By the Grace of Alaha

Catholicos Patriarch

7 September 2025