

**Message of Bishop Joseph Luechai Thatwisai**  
**At the Celebration of World Mission Day**  
**Mother of Perpetual Help Cathedral-Udon Thani**  
**Sunday, 21 October 2012**

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**My dear Priests, Sisters, brothers and sisters in Christ:**

**World Mission Day** is a celebration not just for the missionaries who have come to do mission work in our Diocese of Udon Thani, but in fact, a celebration for all Christians— because Christians, by their very nature and calling, are missionaries and are duty-bound to proclaim the Good News to all.

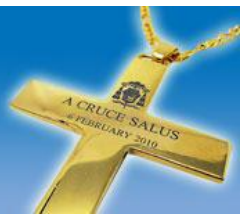
On this fitting occasion, and in the name of the Diocese of Udon Thani, I would like to thank all the men and women missionaries from near and far who had come to work in our Diocese in the recent and remote past, as well as those who are still presently doing mission here—including of course all those who have died and all those who are still living. I thank you all for bringing God’s blessings to us through your presence, and through various religious apostolate and works of charity—which you have done and continue to do—humbly, willingly, joyfully and wholeheartedly—despite all the many obstacles and problems that you have had to face and still face. Amidst all such challenges, nonetheless, so you have persevered and continue to give your best in all the tasks and duties entrusted to you, and do them well—all for the glory of God.

Still, I thank you for your generosity and for your spiritual and physical sacrifices, which you have willingly offered for the sake of your various pastoral work and services—all to benefit us, your Thai brethren. Know that we in the Diocese of Udon Thani are fully aware of your sacrifices and are deeply touched by your gestures of generous sincere love for us...**So I now call on all of us to give our missionaries now here present—and all those who are still living but elsewhere, and those who are already in Heaven—a BIG round of applause! (The congregation applauds.)**

Finally, I would like to **enjoin** all of us: Let us be an encouragement to all our missionaries, and let us walk side-by-side with all of them along the way of “SERVICE & SERVANTHOOD”—until the time comes when they have to leave us. May the Lord, through the intercession of the Mother of Perpetual Help—the Patroness of our Diocese—pour out His love and joy to all our



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missionaries, as well as to all of you who have come here today to join in the celebrations. **May God bless us all!**