

Catania, 1 novembre 2015

New Challenges for the Modern Time

Dear fellow members,

In my personal capacity and in your name I extend the warm welcome of our District to Rotary International President K.R.Ravindran!

I am, in fact, honoured and pleased to inform you that on the 25th of this month, Ravi will deliver a talk in Malta which will be entitled 'Health and Resilience' referring to the PolioPlus programme. This will take place within the People's Forum of the twice-yearly summit of the Commonwealth Heads of State which this year is being hosted in the Island of the Knights.

The month starting today is dedicated to Rotary Foundation and we shall aptly celebrate it with a specific seminar to be held on 14th at Sicilia Outlet Village in Agira together with a seminar on the management of the grants available for 2016-2017. Before that, however, on Sunday 8th, a piano recital will be held in the charming Teatro Massimo 'Vincenzo Bellini', in Catania. This will see exceptional performers and I wish to renew my invitation to all Presidents, Assistants and RF delegates, especially those of Eastern Sicily, to make as substantial a contribution as possible.

I here also wish to mention the worthwhile activities in favour of RF set up by each and every club in District. The original events organised by the clubs are a splendid example of generosity about which, if informed, the Rotary District 2110 Journal will be pleased to publish.

In the past weeks I participated in the Blue Sea Land meeting held in Mazara by the Comitato Interpaese Italy-Tunisia. I cannot but praise the happy conclusion reached by both events which interlocked during the meeting on 'Peace in the Mediterranean: Water, an asset to cultivate together'. The meeting ended with the approval of the 'Rotarian Charter on Water' and with the common prayer by the high representatives of the monotheistic religions which revolved on the reading of the Rotarian prayer. The gratitude of District is due to the Clubs of the Drepanum Area for having organised the event with much generosity and commitment for the benefit of the Rotarians from Tunisia and Italy who participated at Marsala.



A few days ago I returned home from the Milan Institute dedicated to the challenges which modern times impose upon Rotary to face. On the theme 'This Rotarian Age' which evokes a theme presented by Paul Harris in 1935, Rotarians from 73 Districts and 27 nations went back to their homes with the renewed inspiration and energies such as are normally achieved during these borderless Rotarian meetings.

The past month saw the start of the preparatory meetings of IDG Scibilia with the incoming teams in District. I attended the pre-SIPE of Catania and, because of previous commitments, followed the meetings of Palermo and Malta on video. I can only say that much is being prepared and I am sure that a good beginning augurs well.

I come to an end of this letter strongly appealing to you to take great care of the quality and quantity of membership. We cannot afford to lose members and we must take in new, numerous and good ones. With this in mind, the useful discussions of 17th October in Caltanissetta should encourage us to keep in mind that which has been defined non only as 'a' problem of Rotary but 'the' problem.

Enjoy your Rotary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francesco Filazzo".