

Catania, 1 giugno 2016

Dear fellow Rotarians,

June is Rotary Fellowship month – Fellowship being yet another of Rotary's great ideas for promoting friendship within service and for stimulating interest in the diverse activities nurtured by Rotarians and their families. The full list of Rotary Clubs is surprisingly varied and it goes from collecting ancient books to wine collection, model trains and Esperanto. Looking up My Rotary may foster new ideas for creating further Fellowship Clubs in our District. The existing clubs, listed on Page 3 of the *organigramma*, the District Directory, display excellent efficiency and deep expertise in their particular fields.

This is also the month in which District Congress is held. Congress, according to Rotary International, offers the opportunity of networking and the presentation of interesting speakers for the discussion of Rotarian themes. This is exactly what my Staff and I have tried to achieve keeping to this year's Rotary theme, 'Be a gift to the World'. RI President Ravi's motto which is clear and profound, has suggested the most disparate, yet competent presentations such as the ones that will be delivered by PDG Marullo di Condojanni, by Professor Venturi, by the sociologist Notari and by the journalist Morgante. We look forward to hearing their opinions which will support our humanitarian action beyond June 30<sup>th</sup>, for, it is a well-known fact that the Year's motto is valid for one year, but Rotarian service is forever. In fact, the new International President. Pres. Germ, stresses this with his motto, 'Rotary at the Service of Humanity' which has been adopted by Nunzio during the Assembly in Lipari in mid-May.

During the Congress, we will also discuss 'womanhood' thanks to lady Rotarian, PDG Accardi, who is in charge of 'Diversity' in Zone 12. PDG Salvo Sarpietro will update us as to the news from Council of Legislation whose novelties should be looked at with care for evaluating their implications.

We will be 'observed' by a well-known opinion leader, Lelio Cusimano, whose opinion, as a non-Rotarian, we have requested on behalf of District and this is not out of vanity, but rather because we wish to improve our efficiency by receiving external advice. Let's wait and see what a layman suggests!



In the meantime, I renew a warm welcome to Sandra and Peter Davey, who will be representing International president Ravi Ravindran. For several weeks I have had an exchange of correspondence with Peter which has convinced me that he is the right person in the right place. Welcome from Wales, fellow Rotarians!

I am working on making my report on the state of the District which will be presented during Congress. It is a close reflection on my 12 months of service which, sadly, are fast coming to the end. I requested service, substance and sobriety; I promised a 'light' District and committed my constant presence. On this premise, together with 'my' Club Presidents, we took on a commitment which, I can now say, has been achieved. The clubs have literally 'surprised' me with the ingenuity of their projects which, once completed, have brought us to the forefront of public opinion so that we are known for that which we really are.

As for me, I tried to be present wherever my modest presence was needed. I tried not to knock hard on the finances of individual clubs considering that one big District fund raiser was held – the concert in favour of Polio Plus in Catania, last November. I believe that this has helped open up further energy for service to our neighbour. This would not have been possible without the precious collaboration of all my close collaborators and of the Council Secretariat. I do not wish to sound pretentious, so I limit myself to say a big 'Thank you' to them all, in the awareness that for 12 months they have donated me their lives and that for 12 months they have filled my life.

*Francesco Filazzo*