



*John de Giorgio*  
Governatore 2017 - 2018

Malta, 01 dicembre 2017

***“Look for opportunities to make a difference”***

The Governor's visits to Clubs in the District is a very important aspect of the Governor's role and serves a number of objectives. As well as allowing the Governor to get to know better the members, rather than just the Club President and those of the members who frequent the District, and of course for the members to get to know the Governor, it also allows the Governor to make an assessment about the Club and its activities, the projects that the members are undertaking, the extent of involvement of members in these service activities and how the Club is operating. The visits also allow the Governor to bring the message of the President of Rotary International and the objectives of the year.

I have planned to run an intensive programme of visits as I felt that it was important to visit the Clubs in the first half of the year to bring this message to the Clubs early enough so as to allow the ideas to be put into practice within the second half of the year. As we start the month of December, all Club visits have been completed except for the three in the Malta area and three in Catania. The last visit is being undertaken on the 12 December.

Monique and I have received a wonderful welcome during our visits. We have seen and participated in a large number of service projects, in line with our request even prior to the start of the year. We have cried during some of the projects and we have laughed, often at our use of the Italian language. The hospitality has been extraordinary, in true Sicilian style.

As one would expect, there is great variation in the extent to which the various Clubs are meeting President Risley's challenge of "Rotary: Making a Difference". While some of the Clubs are relying too much on other Clubs in their area to undertake projects funded by District grants, others are doing an exceptional job. I would not like to single out these Clubs at this point, also so as to give the other Clubs a chance to put into practice some of the ideas discussed during the Administrative Visit, but as each Rotary year we have a new President and Board, who bring their own energy and style, each year is a new opportunity for a Club to excel and I have witnessed Clubs excelling. You know who you are. Thank you for making a difference to our communities. That is what we are there for.

December is the month in which the focus is on Disease Control and Prevention. This is an area in which much activity is undertaken within our District throughout the year and not just in December. Projects like the BLSA project, screening programmes, the District Diabetes project, the poly-ambulatorio project in Catania, the optician and dental visits and many others all fall into this category. Our members who are medics clearly understand service through their professions.

As this is the last newsletter before the Christmas period, allow me to extend the warmest of wishes for peace and serenity on behalf of Monique and myself to you all, your families and to all those you hold dear. Christmas should stimulate us even further to look for opportunities to make a difference.

Buon Rotary

*John*