



Vittoria, 01 giugno 2019

*Dear friends in Rotary,*

June is the month for Rotary Fellowships which are international groups of Rotarians, their spouses or partners and Rotaractors who share the same interests; cultural, professional, sports and hobbies and who wish to improve on their experiences through Rotary. The aim of these fellowships is promoting friendship and collaboration among members.

The Official Directory for 2018-19 lists 76 Rotary Fellowships which cover a wide range from sports to cycling to scouting, photography, classic cars, Ancient Outer Greece to Esperanto. The Fellowships that are listed in our District (see pg 104 of our Organigram) excel with regards to efficiency and in some cases excel in the interpretation of their final aims.

June is also the month for the District Congress which, will be held between 21 and 23 June 2019 at Giardini Naxos and will be one of the most important highlights of the service year. I will present a report on the 'State of the District' as part of the congress programme and will go through the 12 months of my service reflecting on what was done and what I would have liked to do and have, unfortunately, not concluded.

This is the last letter for my year of service. I hope that I have not been tedious with my preaching and my recommendations. I have tried to maintain an open dialogue with you all on how to see Rotary and the Rotarian action and on which ought to be the outlook on the social role of our association.

Many Sub committees have been active with extraordinary enthusiasm. They have had the collaboration and engagement of all the Clubs and reached results that went beyond the expected. All the projects, none excluded, have attained the scope of making Rotary known for its real worth within the community thus clearing us of stereotypes that have often given us a bad name. I shall only mention some of these projects: the Basic course on Life Support and Defibrillation, the No Ictus-No Infarct project, the Legality and Culture of Ethics and the Good News Agency projects.

The agreements signed with the Authorities for Public Instruction and Professional Training and with the Public Health authority have been of fundamental importance to reach out to schools and create the necessary collaboration to create awareness among the student population on themes of great social importance such as the project on avoiding wastage in food as well as to pass on information regarding health matters (Sexually transmitted diseases and no-smoking). During this year of service, Rotary has been the ideal partner of school institutions to face such problems as youth difficulties. It has been a year of few words and many facts, which is the Rotary which I prefer a Rotary lived by all with commitment and dedication and with an open heart to face all obstacles.

From the physical point of view it has been a tiring year but it has been enthusiastic. The enthusiasm of Club Presidents and Members has stimulated my eagerness and has been together with commitment, action, projects, initiatives and friendship that which has made an incredible mix of efficiency for an extraordinary year.

I have had the privilege of living this experience together with the collaboration and support of special people who have been available, efficient, optimistic, precious and have been able to 'put up with me'! This has been of much help to me by making all easier during the more difficult moments.

There have not only been times of commitment, there have also been very pleasant moments when during the visits to the Clubs I have had the joy of meeting Club Members for fantastic experiences. The warmth with which during each occasion you have welcomed Maria Teresa and me have greatly made up for the physical fatigue, the worries and also for some minor bitterness. Each visit, every meeting, has had particular moments and has left indelible memories. Maria Teresa and I shall never forget you all.

I have always had a cordial simple personal relationship with you all which has allowed me to increase my baggage of friendships which I wish to carry through for the rest of my life, as the memory of a wonderful year of service.

We are now reaching the time for the Congress which closes this year. From John I received an efficient and motivated District and I pass on to Valerio a District equally motivated and efficient and, I hope, even more aware of its great potential. I am aware that much has been done but much still has to be done within District. I shall always be available for any of the District requirements.

Last, I wish to address the young people in our District. I have tried to be as close to them as possible by suggesting the best choices for them to operate upon. They have listened carefully, they have been caring, available, polite and enthusiastic. I have been rewarded by the results and the commitment of Pasquale Pillitteri, District head for Rotaract and by Maria Virginia Pitari, Representing Interact for District. I wish to thank them and their collaborators.

There has been one person who has helped me in every way with counselling and suggestions. This person does not wish to be mentioned but all the same I am infinitely grateful.

My year comes to an end and I pass on the task but I am certain that your commitment will remain strong and passionate and I exhort you to BE AN INSPIRATION! Up with Rotary, up with District 2110!

Yours always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Itala'. The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke at the top and a vertical stroke on the left.