



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
Distretto 2110 - Sicilia e Malta

Gaetano Lo Cicero
Governatore 2012-2013



Palermo, 1 agosto 2012

Dear Rotary friends

in July, accompanied by Patricia, I started the first official Governor's visits to the clubs within our district. As is traditional, the first club that I visited was that of the Rotary Club of Taormina, to give my greetings to and provide a sign of continuity with DGE Maurizio Triscari, a member of this Club.

I also visited the Rotary Club of Castelvetro-Vale del Belice meeting up at the annual "summer camp" with youngsters coming from the Interact Clubs of central Europe and taking part in the twinning of the Interact Club of Castelvetro and that of Pitesti in Romania; an excellent "youth exchange" initiative which contributes to deepen ties between these youngsters and counters any religious and cultural diversity.

Finally, at the end of the month I visited the Rotary Club of Salemi which has inaugurated its new premises and where I met with the youngsters from the Rotaract and Interact Clubs.

Allow me to remind you once more of the theme of the month, which is the internal and external expansion of Rotary. We shall expand on this theme during the seminar being held on the 22nd September during the "Festa dell'Amicizia".

Rotary International has set as an objective for the period 2012-2015 the increase of membership from 1.2 million to 1.3 million members. Personally I believe that, rather than increasing the number of members, we need to work harder to retain our current members improving their loyalty towards Rotary.

This work is, moreover, in line with one of the objectives of R.I.'s Strategic Plan, which is that of sustaining and reinforcing Clubs, promoting innovation and membership diversity, encouraging Club members to undertake service activities, developing new leaders and creating new and more dynamic clubs.

Well, I believe that one of the main causes of members abandoning their Clubs is the shortage of service activities. Often we rely on words, at most putting our hands into our pockets and wallets, without then moving onto action.

We neglect our "mission": WE ARE A GLOBAL NETWORK OF MOTIVATED PEOPLE WHO DEDICATE OURSELVES WITH ENTHUSIASM TO SOCIAL CAUSES WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY.

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Who is not comfortable with this “mission” needs to ask the question: “Why am in Rotary?” The reply may be a personal dilemma. On the other hand, it is our problem, dear friends, if a member is comfortable with this ‘mission’ yet is not satisfied with the work being carried out within the Club. This means that we are unable to offer the service opportunities that excite him and make him feel useful in the Community.

These are the themes that need to be debated within our Clubs to stimulate operational plans which allow us to move from words to actions, from appearances to items of substance.

I hope you all enjoy your holidays

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