



Dear Rotarians,

Congress at Sciacca is waiting for you!

The month of April has seen so many Club initiatives which have been made known by the Press and by our very punctual Bulletin. Our young people have done well at National RYLA, Pope Frances has fascinated the 500 Rotarians from our District and Messina has hosted an interesting forum on the Infrastructure of the South in collaboration with Lion and Kyvanis clubs. Similarly, May will see other programmes being concluded on District level but also at the levels of the different areas and the different clubs. Then we shall meet at Congress to exchange views on our common aims. I must say that we are facing two challenges:

The first being that rather than choosing to meet in one hotel we have planned accommodation and meals in various small premises of the town centre and the surrounding areas so as to get to know Sciacca and its resources better.

The second challenge is the opening of a newly built theatre which for a long time has been unfinished and waiting for its opening. Let us hope this will be successful.

I ask you kindly to be tolerant with any shortcomings.

During the Congress working sessions, we will give brief overviews of the actions taken during the Rotarian year. We shall have quality speakers, among whom there will be Giuseppe Giorgi on behalf of International President. There will be moments of conviviality and relaxation during which we will enjoy getting to know each other better.

The projects for years 2014/15 are nearing completion. The knowledge and ideas of 'A United Mediterranean' will be collected in a traditional volume edited by Fondazione Sciascia which we, Governors of Italy and san Marino, plan to present in parliament to provide our written contribution to society and the political class, especially during this difficult period.

The exchange between the islands of our District and the nations of the Magreb will have a following as I will be making a presentation at the Congress of District 9010 while my friend DG Jil Antari will address our Congress, in order to intensify the traditional initiatives strengthening relations between us. In time, Mediterranean problems should be faced through the relations between the whole of Europe and the whole of Africa and we should move from talking of Euro-Mediterranean to Euro-African. From this point of view, our geographical position becomes strategic.

As for the volume 'Sapori e Salute' and the projects planned with the Regional Government, these will be shown at the EXPO within the Bio-Mediterranean Cluster so as to promote the 91 excellent products therein published so as to make the Mediterranean diet known for a correct nutrition. So let us meet in Sciacca for three days in which to reflect on the action carried out so far and look forward to future action. We will announce the following appointments so as to further enrich our conviction to continue offering our service.

Together with my hardworking team, I wait for you in my little town to return the hospitality that I have received in every corner of Sicily and Malta. Sciacca awaits your arrival for Congress!

Yours,

Giovanni

Sciacca, 1 May 2015