



Giovanni Vaccaro
Governatore 14-15

*Andare, andare, simme tutt'eguale / Affacciati
alle sponde dello stesso mare / E nisciuno è pirata
e nisciuno è emigrante / Simme tutte naviganti.....*

*The words of this song, which is in a Southern
Italian dialect, say that as we go along, we are
all in the same sea and none is a pirate, none an
emigrant; we are all sailors...*

Dear friends,

this is what Eugenio Bennato's song says, 'Yet the Mediterranean is on fire and the Superpowers sit around a table dealing with a hypocritical peace while they wage war on one another through the nations therein'. These were the words stated by Antonio Osnato, when he was a young magistrate, at the closure of his paper 'The Mediterranean burns'.

After so many years, both the above sayings are still very pertinent. This is why the 13 Governors of Rotary in Italy, Malta and San Marino have decided to dedicate National day to a 'United Mediterranean'. Between us and together with the experts we shall look into the matters which should unite us but which in fact frequently divide us. We shall try to make a collection of thoughts to leave a meaningful historic memory to society and to the politicians. We shall show how much significant action has already been achieved in the different districts, in the recent years, both through our good example as well as through fruitful actions of service.

We shall distribute the booklet 'Talk to us' translated into 5 different languages so as to expedite exchanges between African emigrants and Europeans. We shall transmit a small, but significant, sign of peace; two Peace scholarships to two brilliant young people, a Palestinian and an Israeli, who will study together for one year at the Cittadella della Pace (Peace city), in Tuscany. We shall offer a hand to the unaccompanied minors who reach our shores by giving them a useful rucksack and by placing our professions within Rotary (medical, psychological, legal, relating to social services) at their disposal in the centres where they are received and lodged. We will recite the Rotarian prayer in Italian and English in a square in Mazara at the end of the Blue Sea Land, between a Catholic Church and a Mosque.

Segreteria Distrettuale 2014-2015

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During the Rotarian month that celebrates professionalism, this will be our way of renewing our commitment to the honest practice of our professions and to transmit this to the new generations through good example.

We may also promote, among the young, the choice of new professions which will be needed in the near future such as those related to Human resources, Mechanical engineering, psychotherapy, animation, art, etc., as against the more traditional professions which will have few openings in the years to come. We have to look to co-opting these people belonging to the new professions, youth and women, into our clubs for a better quality of the membership base in Rotary. With this in mind, the first e-Club is about to be formed in our District as is also the first 'Satellite club', as has been suggested by the Board of Co-Ordinators for Zone 12.

This will further sustain us to 'light up the Rotary light' and to 'serve with a smile' through so many actions based on professionalism and solidarity and involving the whole Rotarian family.

To this scope, we have united Rotarians, Rotaractors, Inner Wheel members and Interactors in the last week of September, in the centre of Sicily, where we had the occasion to renew friendships, strengthen the ethical principles to be adhered to in our common actions and bring together tradition and innovation, because there is strength in unity!

I therefore encourage you to come in numbers for the 'event of the year' : The International Forum of the United Mediterranean! Many years ago, it was right in Marsala – Port of Allah, Port of God – that the 1000 voluntary Garibaldi followers landed. Let us hope to be 1000 also this time so that we may light a bright light. We shall leave Marsala feeling enriched.

Abby Mc Near, representing International President, will be with us, as will also Giuseppe Vitale of the Board of Directors and several Past Governors. There will be moments of friendship and we shall have the occasion to show the hospitality for which we Islanders, Sicilian and Maltese, are known. While thanking you for the enthusiastic participation at the seminars on Leadership and Growth, I look forward to greeting you in the hope that the understanding between the Governors may be extended to all the Rotarians of the 13 organizing Districts and all Rotarians from other Mediterranean Districts.

Hurrah for the Mediterranean!

Giovanni

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