

Catania, 1 January 2016

***To always deserve Rotary by honouring it through service***

Dear fellow members,

this month is dedicated to Vocational Service, a theme that goes hand in hand with Rotarian Ethics. It is a matter that is often taken for granted but on whose continued existence we must never lower our guard, both with regards to existing members as to aspiring ones. Vocational Service is the second point on the list of Rotarian aims and specifies that our Vocational Service is to be unambiguously 'of the highest professional rectitude'. It also holds high the dignity of each occupation and the most dignified exercise of same with respect to the ideal of service. How modern a concept it is to give each occupation its dignity, and we are looking at well over a century ago! This reminds me of my parents' advice which told me to place dignity and honesty above gain and social prestige in the choice of which ever profession I was about to undertake. Since 1955, Rotarian Ethics have been codified in the 'Fourwaytest': ***Is all that I think, say and do the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendship? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*** Neither is it easy nor would it be correct to avoid the examination of conscience that these four simple questions pose.

I can proudly say that I have reached the goal of visiting half the District Clubs by the Christmas period. I confirm my positive judgement regarding the quantity and quality of service projects embark upon by the Clubs. However, I must say that there are, here and there, some adjustments to be made regarding what I will call the 'liturgy'. The Rotarian Evening is seen by most as an event whose beginning and end is uncertain and is seen as delaying one's chance to go home for a rest before starting a new day of work. Few members are pleased with the timings and yet we do not seem to be able to shorten the time of talks and presentations notwithstanding that it should not be too difficult to see the relation between the pleasure of frequenting Rotary and the regularity and brevity of meetings.



This is the ideal month in which to underline the fact that it is not possible to be serious professionals and at the same time be 'night birds' who are hostage to speakers who are unable to control their timings and of officials who do not let go of the microphone!

30th April, date of the Rotarian Jubilee is drawing close. I beg you to consider early organization. The hotel availability that District will be offering will be limited. I therefore invite you to look into providing your own accommodation. It is practically indispensable to arrive on the 29th and departure can be planned as from the 30th April, at 13.00 after the ceremony is over, unless one wishes to take advantage of collateral activities organised for the Rotarians such as a visit to the Vatican Museums, the passing by the Holy Door, etc. President Ravi will join the Rotarians present for a Charity Dinner (€60) for which places are limited and also for a concert on the 30th in the afternoon. This month we will activate the portal <http://www.rotary-jubilee2016.org/> which will enable you to book the various segments of the event.

Best wishes to all wishing that we may all deserve Rotary by honouring it with the service it requires of us.

*Francesco Filazzo*