

Catania, 1 aprile 2016

Concrete actions in our District towards mother's and infant's

Dear friends in Rotary,

this is the start of the month dedicated to activities concerning the health of mothers and children. I must say that our District is well in line for we have several initiatives relating to this theme. I recollect the looks of happy children to whom Rotary has offered relief from difficult situations. I well remember a shelter home in Salaparuta to which some Clubs in the Trapani area offered necessary goods and also financed a surgical procedure which was necessary for a young guest of the home.

I also remember the smiling faces of boys and girls in a charitable home in Mazara del Vallo which is run by nuns and to which the District offered school material and products for personal hygiene. Only a few days ago I visited a help centre 'Vita di Delia' to which the clubs of the Caltanissetta area offered nappies, baby foods, clothing for new born babies. These are but a few examples of the many service actions which it would be difficult for me to list but which can be looked up in the past issues of this District journal.

On 18th March the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) in Palermo came to an end. Once more this Rotarian service has been a major success for the quality of the speakers, of the participants and for the interaction between the two groups. More can be seen in other pages of this journal. I was looking forward to finding out how the choice of the participants of this 2016-17 edition was going to work as I had asked the Clubs to choose not only among Rotaractors but to give a chance of participation also to young people, non Rotaractors, who came from less privileged levels of society for whom District covered 50% of the costs sharing these with the proposing clubs. Well, I must say that the experiment has worked as we had 71 participants, a record number, and 42% of these were not Rotaract members. I must say that it was not only at the Palermo RYLA that the young people made a name for themselves. Before participating in RYLA, they had attained great results in the Good News Agency competition the winners of which were given their participation at RYLA as a prize.



Furthermore, on 18th March the inter-district competition 'The legality and Culture of Ethics' ended in Rome. 26 Sicilian clubs took part successfully presenting projects on the theme of 'Bullying and Cyber bullying'. The Governor is aware of and grateful to those members who really are 'a gift to the world' as District can count on them to coordinate the functions of the Clubs.

Between 17 and 21st April, the Donnafugata Golf Resort, close to Ragusa, will be the European Capital of Rotarian golf for the 42nd edition of the European Rotarian Golf Championships. While it will be my pleasure to greet participants personally, I give a welcome greeting to the many participants. The choice of District 2110, the choice of our island for this important event, is proof of trust in our District. It will be up to us to prove that we deserved this trust and the success achieved will be the best way to express our gratitude.

Yours in Rotary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francesco Filazzo".