

Catania, 1 febbraio 2016

***Tolerance, good will and peace Instruments and result of Rotary service***

Dear Co-Members,

Rotary International dedicates the month of February to Peace and the prevention and resolution of conflicts. This theme ties in with the fourth rule of our association which looks at harmony among peoples built on personal friendships and collaboration between professions within service to others. One cannot but praise the foresight of Rotary if one considers that such thought was elaborated a great many years ago and was founded on the idea of international collaboration. This does not look at a generic sense of comradeship but it means understanding, goodwill and peace as an instrument and, simultaneously, as a result of the will to serve.

Rotary has set up various statutory projects that relate to the theme expressed this month such as the Rotary Peace Centres, the Youth exchanges, the Rotary Foundation scholarships and exchanges among groups from different countries down to the simple hospitality that a Rotarian travelling abroad can expect by visiting the local club.

This month we celebrate the hundred eleventh anniversary of the foundation of our organisation. It would be great if, as in the past, on 23 February we celebrated with a service activity, with exhibiting our flag in public buildings and if we could dedicate streets, squares, public gardens to Paul Harris and to Rotary International.

The organisation for the Rotarian Jubilee of 30<sup>th</sup> April has taken off and I herewith wish to state my wish for a healthy and well-organised participation. District will keep Presidents informed with regards to any new worthwhile novelty; however we confirm the details given in the January Journal on pages 3 and 7. The site on which to choose one's options and on which to register is <http://www.rotary-jubilee2016.org/>. it is necessary to arrive the day before the event and it is important to make early reservations.

On 18<sup>th</sup> January I was informed that '*Rotary serving humanity*' will be President John Germ's motto for the year 2016-17. As I am very well acquainted with IDG Nunzio Scibilia's attitude, I am certain that it will be easy for him to carry this message through.



As far as I am concerned, while I work at *'Being a gift to the world'*, which is President Ravi's motto, I could not have wished for a better continuity as it is what Nunzio and I try to build together with respect and determination. In fact, the wishes that I extend to him for his work are, in a way, also auspicious to me in mine.

I come to a close mentioning the convivial moments that I have shared during my visits to the Clubs. I have received apologies from those clubs which gave up the traditional official gala dinner in favour of a lighter buffet dinner or cocktail reception. I have to say that in so doing they adhered to the humble request which I made in order to save time and, above all, to save money. I thank them most sincerely as I also thank those clubs that did not give up their traditional form of hospitality. In all cases I was aware of so much cordiality and hospitality, indeed friendship which I sincerely hope to have deserved.

Yours in Rotary,

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