



Rotary Club of North Colorado Springs  
P.O. Box 7056  
Colorado Springs, CO 80933

## Invocation Handbook



The Rotary Club of  
North Colorado Springs

## Introduction and Acknowledgments

This Invocation Handbook was prepared by members of the North Colorado Springs Rotary Club for use by Club members. We drew from many sources, including other Rotary clubs. We hope our friends in all organizations and walks of life will find it useful for adding a spiritual note to group occasions. We invite readers to offer their own favorite invocations for possible inclusion in the next edition.

*Jack Thomas*  
*Ray Hess*  
*Dave Margrave*  
*Max Calkins*  
*Rex Schultz*

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 Jack Thomas, President. May, 2003

have the joy of a fulfilling life, full of good health and companionship, in surroundings that are beneficial to all.

Amen.

*(Joseph D. Coons, Bellingham WA)*

*Let us take a moment to remember* all the religions represented in the worldwide Rotary family. Let us recall that when we were invited to join this Rotary club, we were not asked if we were a Protestant, a Hindu, a Muslim, a Jew, a Catholic, or a Buddhist. We were not asked because all religions are welcome in the Rotary family.

Please join me in a moment of reflection and thanks with these words: With our friends beside us, and no person beneath us. With the bonds of Rotary between us, and our worries behind us. With our goals before us, and no task beyond us. With a thirst for knowledge, and a dream for a polio-free world. We are thankful for our Rotary friends and the meal we are about to share.

Thank you.

*(Chris Offer, 5040 District Governor)*

*Holy God, let us be faithful witnesses* to the power of your love. Let our lives mirror hope in the midst of despair, let our deeds be filled with compassion in a world of bruising indifference, let our words be truthful when misinformation holds center stage, let our forgiveness build new bridges of reconciliation. Let your Spirit fill us with courage and hope. Amen.

*(Max and Bruce Calkins)*

## Contacting The Rotary Club of North Colorado Springs

The Rotary Club of North Colorado Springs meets every Wednesday at 12:00 noon at the Holiday Inn, just West of the intersection of I-25 & Garden of the Gods Road. If you are interested in learning more about Rotary, we invite you to visit our website at: <http://www.rotary5470.org/northcoloradosprings/> and call or email any member.

### The Four-Way Test

. . . of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

*O God of time and eternity, help us look to the past with gratitude and to the future with hope. We remember this day those who have gone before us here, who labored not for themselves alone but with a vision of building for the future a world better than they had known. Inspire in us also a like vision, that we too may labor for things beyond ourselves, that our lives may be dedicated to high purposes and grand horizons. Make us unafraid of hopes and dreams; release us from cynicism and despair. Teach us to be realistic about our limitations but never to lose hope in our potential to transcend them.*

Amen.  
(Earl Holt)

*We come to this hour knowing that it is but an hour. Yet out of all the hours in the week this is one that is set apart: an hour that is saved, an hour that is savored. It is a time for us to recognize what gives life meaning. It is a time to honor what we value. It is a time to celebrate our lives. Let us then celebrate, honor, and recognize that we might fully savor this hour we have saved.*

(Louise Robeck)

*We have come into this room of hope where our hearts and minds are open to the future.*

*We have come into this room of justice where we set aside our fear to name freely every oppression.*

*We have come into this room of love where we know that no lives are insignificant.*

*We have come into this room of song where we unite our voices in the somber and the beautiful melodies of life.*

(Libbie D. Stoddard)

#### Specific for Rotary Meetings

*Lord, as we enjoy our fellowship, help us to remember how fortunate we are to be able to serve our brothers and sisters around the world through Rotary and our amazing Foundation. That we are prosperous, help us to give of our material wealth. That we are free, enable us to work together on projects. That we are generous, help us to work together to accomplish amazing successes. And that we are dedicated, bring us together as an individual club to continue our efforts to serve our community.*

*Guide us in our service. Keep us well so we can serve. And bless those peoples around the world touched by our works, so that they, too, can*

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#### Sources to be credited:

Earth Prayers From Around the World, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon; Harper San Francisco, a Division of Harper Collins Publishers, 1991

Life Prayers From Around the World. edited by same people above and publisher too, 1996

## Invocation Traditions

In the complexity of life, we must keep our sights high, or risk losing track of our reasons for living. Therefore it is wise to take a moment from time to time, to revisit our core principles. Invocations serve this purpose.

In a broad sense, an “invocation” appeals for guidance from a higher power or authority. It may simply call upon others to aspire to principled conduct. In ceremonies and group assemblies, the invocation is often a prayer, such as the grace at the occasion of a meal or banquet.

One dictionary definition of “invocation” taken from *The Living Webster*, The English Language Institute of America, 1977: “The act of invoking or addressing in prayer; the form or act of calling for the assistance of presence of any being, particularly of some divinity; a prayer said at the opening of a ceremony or service; the summoning of a spirit, or an incantation used for this; a calling upon a legal or moral standard or right.”

Invocations draw us together to remember and recommit to fundamental values. Typically those values include the simple acknowledgment of a divine authority, a statement of gratitude, or the yearning for common goals. We often invoke the guidance of the Deity to remind us by whose grace we received the gift of life and how to use that gift.

An invocation may simply consist of a moment of silence. Shared silence gives each person a chance to invoke his or her own moral or spiritual authority. It honors the sanctuary of the individual conscience as the wellspring of moral conduct.

As Rotarians, we dedicate our talents and resources to the well being of our fellow human beings. Invocations call upon each member to summon the wisdom of his or her own faith or conscience. They remind us to appreciate (and share) the gifts we might otherwise take for granted. By reconnecting with our faith or the traditions of our community, we regain a broad perspective on life. That perspective inspires us to focus upon our chosen course of productive action with a renewed sense of purpose.

Meals present an especially appropriate opportunity to make an invoca-

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Veterans Day

*Heavenly Father:*

Teach us to use *our* freedom to help to preserve and strengthen the freedom of *all*;

By respecting and upholding its laws;

By supporting our law enforcement agencies;

By informing ourselves on current issues;

By voting regularly and wisely; and

By honoring the rights of other people;

And now bless this food to our use and us to Your service.

Amen.

Appropriate for Veterans Day at Rotary Meetings

*Lord of the Universe,*

We use that name for you to remind us that no matter their denomination, all good people are guided by your spirit. We remember, Creator, that our own Rotary International was chartered early in the 20th century, shortly before the war called, “The Great War to End All Wars” began. Sadly, it was not to end all wars after all . . . there have been too many wars since that time.

But now we look ahead. We stay focused on the objectives we have for the world: Peace and Understanding. A true brotherhood of man. Freedom from hunger, from oppression, from sickness. The freedom to choose our own destinies. We reaffirm our commitment to our simple Rotary “Four Way Test” for all we do and support: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? In a time when being non-judgmental is “politically correct”, we will be judgmental, evaluating our actions and those of others by this simple extension of the Golden Rule.

We reaffirm our commitment to high ethics in all we do. And we give thanks for all the blessings, opportunities and responsibilities that befall us as Rotarians, North Americans, and individuals. We continue with optimism, renewed energy and a commitment to service to you and our fellow man. Please, Lord of the Universe, help us to serve.

Amen.

*(Joseph D. Coons, Bellingham WA)*

*Lord,*

Help us to forever remember those guardians who stood in harm’s way to protect our loved ones and us. Bless and keep those guardians of liberty and their loved ones, just as they blessed us and ours with their service in the name of freedom.

may people think of befriending one another. May those who find themselves in trackless, fearful wilderness - the children, the aged, the unprotected - be guarded by beneficial celestials, and may they swiftly attain Buddhahood.

*(Buddhist prayer)*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be known as Children of God. But I say to you that hear, love your enemies. do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To those that strike you on the cheek, offer the other one also; and from those who take away your cloak, do not withhold your coat as well. Give to everyone who begs from you, and of those who take away your goods, do not ask for them again. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. Amen.*

*(Christian prayer)*

## Invocations for Special Occasions

### Special Guests

*Lord,*

Thank You for the blessing of a visit from [e.g.] *District Governor [name]*, and the experience and perspective she brings to us, for the guidance of our club, in the service of Rotary.

Amen.

*Creator of All things,*

We thank You for the opportunity to enjoy this excellent meal; to be with good friends; to learn from this fine speaker; and to serve Mankind through this fine organization.

### Veterans Day

*Lord,*

Thank You for the courage and dedication of all the men and women who have served their nation in uniform. Remind us that the freedom we so often take for granted today was purchased at enormous cost; That our own lives were ransomed by men and women who laid down their own lives, limbs, health, and fortunes, upon the altar of freedom; That many of these guardians still endure wounds to the soul which we cannot comprehend; and That we enjoy today the company of people who risked all, so that we and our loved ones might live in peace and safety. Help us to remember their service, and learn from their example.

Amen.

tion. Marcia and Jack Kelly stated this eloquently:<sup>a</sup>

“Saying grace is an ancient and vital tradition the world over.

To begin with, it provides a space, a moment of stillness, in which to relinquish the activities of the day and allow the mind to settle. Then, as we acknowledge the source of our nourishment, we are filled with astonishment at the generosity of the Creator, with gratitude, and with praise.

In bringing the body, mind, and heart together, we come to ourselves, and remember who we are and why we are here. For some families, a meal is the only time everyone is present, and so the opportunity to enjoy one another and really celebrate the occasion is not to be lost. For many, a meal is also the only time that there is any memory of the Divine.

Saying grace establishes an immediate connection with that memory. In such a moment, when our minds are clear and the truth is reinforced by being sounded aloud, we can dedicate the meal and the strength we receive from it to the service of whomever or whatever is before us.”

<sup>a</sup> *One Hundred Graces*, published by Harmony Books, a division of the Crown Publishing Group. 1992.

The manner and context in which one delivers an invocation seems to be as important as the message itself. We attempt to respect the diversity of many traditions. At the same time, such respect does not necessarily require that we expunge all references to God from our public lives. We need not speak our minds in such generic terms as to make them meaningless. Nor are we necessarily precluded from using specific passages from the scriptures of individual religions. Just as we honor individuals by respecting their diversity, we can respect the traditions that produced those diverse individuals.

The examples which follow do include invocations traceable to one or another specific religious tradition. I believe the issue is not so much whether a prayer, poem, or invocation is traceable to a particular country, religion, but whether, taken in context, it rings of subtle pressure or propaganda. The context includes not just the religious tenor of the statement, but also the religious background of the speaker, as well as that of the listener. However, almost any reference to the Deity tends to resonate more strongly with one tradition or another. Every name for the Deity reflects roots in one tradition or another.

Phrases like, “Heavenly Father” originate in the Christian tradition. While one may associate the word “Allah” with Islam, the Arabic word “Allah” is a generic word equivalent to “God” in English. It’s often used by Christians and Jews in Arabic speaking nations. In my opinion, such differences primarily reflect differing geographical origins or dialectical differences. Those differences are minor in comparison to the similarities in fundamental values promoted by all the major religions of the world.

It is wise to use references traceable to a specific religion cautiously, if ever, to avoid even the appearance of promoting one’s own religion.

The thoughtful article, *Promoting Understanding Among Peoples of All Faiths: Guidelines for Public Prayer*. (<http://www.cres.org/ref/ref0009.htm>) was of great help in preparing this Handbook.  
– David J. Margrave

## Rotary International Policy

The following policy statement is taken from *The ABC’s of Rotary* (1995 Edition):

### Invocations at Club Meetings:

In many Rotary Clubs, particularly in Judeo-Christian nations, it is customary to open weekly meetings with an appropriate invocation or blessing. Usually such invocations are offered without reference to specific religious denominations or faiths.

Rotary policy recognizes that throughout the world, Rotarians represent many religious beliefs, ideas and creeds. The religious beliefs of each member are fully respected, and nothing in Rotary is intended to prevent each individual from being faithful to such convictions.

At international assemblies and conventions, it is traditional for a silent invocation to be given. In respect for all religious beliefs and in the spirit of tolerance for a wide variety of personal faiths, all persons are invited to seek divine guidance and peace “each in his own way.” It is an inspiring experience to join with thousands of Rotarians in an international “silent prayer” or act of personal devotion. Usually, all Rotary International board and committee meetings begin with a few moments of si-

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that generosity triumph over indifference,  
that trust triumph over contempt, and  
that truth triumph over falsehood.  
*(Zoroastrian prayer)*

*Returning violence* for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.  
*(Martin Luther King, Jr.)*

*I slept and dreamt* that life was joy;  
I awoke and saw that life was service;  
I acted and behold, service was joy!  
*(Rabindranath Tagore)*

*Only a life lived* for others is worth living.  
*(Albert Einstein)*

*Everyone can be great* because everyone can serve.  
*(Martin Luther King, Jr.)*

*Give like the rose* gives its perfume -- effortlessly, unconditionally because it is its own nature.  
*(Vivekananda)*

*The only ones among you* who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.  
*(Albert Schweitzer)*

*The fruit of silence* is prayer.  
The fruit of prayer is faith.  
The fruit of faith is love.  
The fruit of love is service.  
The fruit of service is peace.  
*(Mother Theresa)*

*We look forward* to the time when the power of love will replace the love of power. Then will our world know the blessing of peace.  
*(William Ewart Gladstone)*

*May all beings everywhere* plagued with sufferings of body and mind quickly be freed from their illnesses. May those frightened cease to be afraid, and may those bound be free. May the powerless find power, and

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nation - neither shall they learn war any more. And none shall be afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.

*(Jewish prayer)*

Oh God, lead us from the unreal to the Real.  
 Oh God, lead us from darkness to light.  
 Oh God, lead us from death to immortality.  
 Shanti, Shanti, Shanti unto all.  
 Oh Lord God almighty, may there be peace in celestial regions.  
 May there be peace on Earth.  
 May the waters be appeasing.  
 May herbs be wholesome, and may trees and plants bring peace to all.  
 May all beneficent beings bring peace to us.  
 May thy Vedic Law propagate peace all through the world.  
 May all things be a source of peace to us.  
 And may thy peace itself bestow peace on all and may that peace come to me also.

*(Hindu prayer)*

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful. Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us and made us into tribes and nations that we may know each other, not that we may despise each other. If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and trust God, for the Lord is the one that heareth and knoweth all things. And the servants of God, most gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility, and when we address them, we say "PEACE."

*(Muslim prayer)*

Oh Great Spirit of our Ancestors,  
 I raise my pipe to you.  
 To your messengers the four winds,  
 and to Mother Earth who provides  
 for your children.  
 Give us the wisdom to teach our children  
 to love, to respect, and to be kind  
 to each other so that they may grow  
 with peace of mind.  
 Let us learn to share all good things that  
 you provide for us on this Earth.

*(Native American prayer for peace)*

We pray to God to eradicate all the misery in the world:  
 that understanding triumph over ignorance,

lent meditation. In this period of silence, Rotary demonstrates respect for the beliefs of all members, who represent the religions of the world.

Since each Rotary Club is autonomous, the practice of presenting a prayer or invocation at Club meetings is left entirely to the traditions and customs of the individual Club, with the understanding that these meeting rituals always be conducted in a manner which will respect the religious convictions and faiths of all members.

## General Recommendations

### Terms of Address

The Infinite can be named many ways, in different situations. References to the Deity should generally be broad, and inclusive of all major traditions. Some examples include:

God	Almighty Creator
Creator of All Things	Divine Creator
Divine Spirit	Lord
Eternal Presence	Heavenly Father
Infinite Spirit	Source of All Creation
Spirit of Love	

### Suggestions for Preparing an Invocation

- Use your own style, in a manner consistent with your convictions.
- Express hopes and aspirations that are common to all that are present.
- Making a statement of gratitude is always appropriate.
- Acknowledge the activity or occasion. For example, express gratitude for a meal, or for the opportunity to meet with friends, to serve the goal of the committee or other group that has assembled.
- By modeling respect for all traditions, we place the particular occasion in the largest spiritual context.
- If you petition the Deity to fulfill a particular request, make certain it is one that every person in the group would endorse without hesitation.
- It may be appropriate to request the speedy recovery of an ill member, or the success of the group or a sponsored or affiliated group.
- Never use an invocation to advocate special political or religious beliefs.
- Close with "Amen," or "Peace" or "So may it be," or a similar phrase, to create closure to the invocation.

## Invocations for Any Occasion

### *A Moment of Silence*

Let us take a moment of silence in order to: *[select one or more of the following or add any appropriate additional statement of purpose:]*

- Appreciate the gift of this meal and the fellowship of good friends in Rotary;
- Thank the Divine Creator for the gift of this meal and the fellowship of our friends in Rotary;
- Allow each of us to take inspiration from our own personal faith and traditions of conscience;
- Remember the gift of life and from whom it has been given to us;
- Pray to the Creator in whatever manner is consistent with our own creeds and convictions;
- Summon to mind those principles from which we find guidance;
- Acknowledge in our hearts the love we have been given, and seek the strength to share that love with others;
- Refresh our spirits by invoking the Divine, however we may conceive of It within the sanctity of our own minds.
- Draw inspiration from the Source of all creation, each in his or her own way.
- Meditate in peace and fellowship before going about the business portion of this meeting.
- Seek guidance from Providence, and express gratitude for the bounty of meal and opportunity to serve mankind through Rotary.
- Reconnect in faith with the Source of Life, and take joy in the opportunity to be with good friends with a common purpose.
- Give thanks for the fellowship of good friends, and the opportunity to hear from *[our speaker today]* after enjoying this meal.
- Allow all of us, in the sanctuary of our own hearts and minds, to reconnect with the guiding principles which inspire our lives.

### *Heavenly Father:*

Teach us that even if we can't do great things, we can at least do small things in a great way. May we always be sincere in our efforts to help others in need. Now bless this food to our use and us to Your service.  
Amen.

### *Lord, bless our meal,*

and as You satisfy the needs of each of us, make us mindful of the needs of others.

truth.

Amen.

*(Rev. Kenneth D. Benner, Rotary Club of Strathcona Sunrise, Comox Valley, BC, Canada)*

### *For food to nourish*

the body and conversation to enrich the mind, may the Lord make us truly thankful.

Amen.

*Give us this day our daily bread, O Father in heaven, and grant that we who are filled with good things from Your hand may never close our hearts to the hungry, the homeless, and the poor; in the name of God.*

Amen.

*(Abbey of New Clairvaux, Vina, CA)*

### *Grandfather Great Spirit*

All over the world the faces of living ones are alike. With tenderness they have come up out of the ground. Look upon Your children that they may face the winds and walk the good road to the Day of Quiet. Grandfather Great Spirit, fill us with the Light. Give us the strength to understand and the eyes to see. Teach us to walk the soft Earth as relatives to all that live.

*(Sioux Prayer)*

### *Mother, Father, Good, Universal Power*

Remind us daily of the sanctity of all life. Touch our hearts with the glorious oneness of all creation as we strive to respect all the living beings on this planet. Penetrate our souls with the beauty of this earth as we attune ourselves to the rhythm and flow of the seasons. Awaken our minds with the knowledge to achieve a world in perfect harmony and grant us the wisdom to realize that we can have heaven on earth.

*(Jo Poore)*

*Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity.*

*Be fair in judgment, and guarded in thy speech,*

*Be a lamp unto those who walk in darkness, and a home to the stranger.*

*Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring.*

*Be a breath of life to the body of humankind, a dew to the soil of the human heart, and a fruit upon the tree of humility.*

*(Bah'ai Prayer for Peace)*

*Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that we may walk the paths of the Most High. And we shall beat our swords into ploughshares, and our spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against*

to continue in our efforts as Rotarians.  
We ask these blessings in Thy holy name.  
Amen.

*Blessed are you,*  
Lord, God of Creation.  
You feed the whole world with Your goodness, Your grace, Your kindness and Your mercy. You nourish and sustain us and do good to all. Bless this food to our use and us to Your service.

Amen.  
(Dr. William Dougherty, Rotary Club of Elmira Heights)

*May those assembled here today*  
Enjoy the many offerings of Rotary. May we abide by the rules we have established, those of trust, fellowship and ethics, and may we place service above self, in our daily endeavors. And may we always test ourselves and our efforts to be sure they are the truth, good for all concerned, of benefit to mankind, and provide peace and understanding.  
Amen.

*It is good to recognize* how different we are in our talents, our dreams, our backgrounds, our occupations. In our differences we can move together toward a common goal. Bless us as we meet together. Thank You for our individuality and also for our common bond.

Amen.  
(Phil Morris, Rotary Club of Furnitureland, High Point, NC)

*Today we pray*  
That we may receive Your special blessing because we are committed to be a real service organization to help humankind. May each of us in our daily routine come to know the joy of caring and sharing with others not as fortunate as we are. May our motto that includes serving, caring and sharing be for us life service as well as lip service.

Amen.  
(Phil Morris, Rotary Club of Furnitureland, High Point, NC)

*For friends,*  
food, fun and fellowship, especially the fellowship of Rotary we give our sincere thanks. May these tokens of Your bounty nourish our physical bodies in preparation for the challenges that are ours in Rotary. Keep us always mindful of the needs of others and keep us always attuned to our calling in Rotary. We ask these things in the name of Your eternal

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Amen.  
(Mt. St. Mary's Abbey, MA)

*The Lord bless you* and keep you; The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Amen.  
(Numbers 6:14-26)

*Lord,* make me an instrument of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is darkness, light.  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console  
To be understood, as to understand To be loved, as to love.  
For it is in *pardoning* that we are pardoned. And it is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.  
(Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi)

*May God* bless our meal and grant us a compassionate and understanding heart toward one another.

Amen.  
(Mt. St. Mary's Abbey, MA)

*May light and love surround us* and guide us to right action.  
May love, joy and peace be Yours in abundance.  
May our Club be made holy, O God, by Your Light.  
May the light of love and truth shine upon us all, as a blessing from You.  
May our table and our Rotary Club be consecrated by Your Divine Presence at this meal and at all our Rotary meals.

Amen.  
(Adapted from a recitation traditionally given as candles are lit for the Jewish Sabbath)

*May the blessing* of God rest upon you,  
May His peace abide with you,  
May His presence illuminate your heart,  
Now and forevermore.

Amen.  
(Sufi blessing)

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Let's take a few moments to bow our heads in gratitude. We give thanks to God, by whatever name each of us may think of Him, for the companionship of our colleagues in Rotary, for the strength we draw from this meal, and for the opportunity to put these to the service of our brothers and sisters around the world.

Amen.

*(Dave Margrave)*

*Heavenly Father:*

Let us pray for the sick, the lonely, and the hungry, and let us make someone's day happier by doing an unexpected kindness. May we always willingly share our blessings with those in need.

Amen.

*Divine and Eternal Presence,*

We thank You once again for this fine meal, and for our good friends in Rotary. Keep us ever mindful that we are related, as individuals and as nations, and that the problems and struggles of our brothers and sisters across the globe belong to us all. Please inspire us, as we renew our commitment to service above self.

Namaste

*(Dave Margrave)*

*Almighty God,*

Bless this food which we are about to receive  
Bless us this during this time that we share  
and we may be ever mindful of Thy will and our duty towards our goal  
of Service above Self.

Amen.

*Lord,*

Refresh us with this food. and nourish our hearts and minds with the constant values that make us Rotarians. Open before us the way of peace and service.

Amen.

*Father in heaven,*

Sustain our bodies with this food, our hearts with true friendship; and fellowship and our souls with Your truth.

Amen.

*Bless, O Lord,*

this food to our use, and us to Thy service in Rotary. We look to Thee, O Lord, for food to nourish our bodies ... for grace to strengthen our spirits ... for love to enrich our lives ... and the will to serve as Rotarians.

Amen.

*O God, our Father,*

Who gives food for the body, and truth for the mind -- so nourish and enlighten us that we may grow wise to do Your will, and ever mindful of the ideas and values of Rotary.

Amen.

*For the food that nourishes our bodies . . .*

*for the fellowship here that feeds our souls . . .*

*for all things good and beautiful with which our lives are filled . . .*

*we render thanks to You -- giver of every good and perfect gift.*

Amen.

*Heavenly Father,*

we thank You for this food and for all Thy goodness to us. Give us grace to do Your will and serve above self.

For family and friends . . .

for health and strength . . .

for love and joy, we thank You

and pray that we may so use these gifts as to increase the happiness of all those around us.

Amen.

*Bless, O Lord,*

this food to our use, and us in Your service. Keep in our hearts and minds the message of "service above self" and bless our gathering together.

Amen.

*Accept, O Father,*

our humble thanks for this our daily food, and as it adds strength to our bodies, may it give us the power to render better service to Thee.

Amen.

*O God, our Father,*

Who gives us food for the body and truth for the mind so enlighten and nourish us that we may grow wise and strong and do Thy will. Help us