

Blessing for Our Club Meal

One of the requirements of a Red Badger or new members will be to give a blessing for our club meal. The following blessings are provided by Rotarians from around the country that you may feel free to use. If you are not comfortable with giving the blessing just tell the President when he asks you. There are other areas for you to serve.

THE FOUR WAY TEST BLESSING

Lord help Us to remember as we walk along life's pathway that whatever we might say, let it be only the truth.

Whatever steps we take in life, let them build good will and better friendships.

Whatever goals we strive to accomplish, let them be beneficial to all concerned.

We ask you to help us to never lose sight of our many blessings, including the food we partake of today. Amen

Sharon Pepper, Canandaigua Rotary Club

I FEEL SO EMPTY

Cautiously, I approach this table, wondering who else will be at the places set here; Afraid to let anyone know how hungry I am. Let me linger, O Nurturing God, allowing you to feed me, to fill me. Help me realize that it is in the sharing that I taste and drink your Presence.

Ann Donofrio-Benson, "A Place at the Table," Praying, May-June 1993.

Oh God! It's great to be here with You and with each other today. Bless our common time that we might have time for the uncommon the sharing of our service with our neighbors. Amen

Bill Grossman, Rotary Club of Amherst East, NY

FOR THE DAYS OF THE WEEK

Ever-present God, we offer you our praise and turn to you all our days.

Let your love lift us on Monday.

May your joy fill us every Tuesday.

Let peace prevail all through Wednesday.

And goodness and kindness reign on Thursday.

May patience persist throughout Friday.

Let gentleness and rest guide us on Saturday

and your faithfulness surround us on Sunday.

God of each day, we offer you our prayers and our service. Amen.

Bill Grossman, Rotary Club of Amherst East, NY

God of the Universe,

Since we are not conscious enough to fathom your ebb and flow, help us then to bring our best efforts to what we can know.

To love our friends and family. To treat our employees and fellow workers fairly.

To seek justice. To help those in need. To be the best that we can be,

And to live by the four way test: Of all the things we think, say or do:

Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned? Amen

Rotarian Len Scheffler, Columbia-Northwest, Columbia, MO

GOD OF CREATION

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 Rotary service.

Amen.

Dr. William Dougherty, Rotary Club of Elmira Heights

BEAUTY ALL AROUND

There is a beauty all around us, O God. The earth under our feet is holy ground. The air we breathe restores us to life. The flowers and mustard blooming on the hillsides stir in us a moment of wonder. The ocean waves eternally wash the shore.

But who speaks for the earth, what flower or animal stands up to human efforts to subdue the land for our use? Who hears the mountain cry, who weeps over dirty water and dark air?

Only those with wide eyes. Only those who are blessed with silence.

Only those who hear with their hearts and feel with their hands.

Holy God, turn us to seeing our connection with the earth and all living things. Open our eyes to the beauty of creation and of our coexistence on this green-blue planet. Set us, with unhurried time and listening ears upon a mountain, so we may hear its good tidings. Cause us to sit with our backs against a tree and feel the support of Earth's towering strength. Stop us long enough to feel the wind, to watch a sea gull, to smell a flower. Strengthen us to stand up to abuse, speak out for justice and to walk gently upon the earth. Amen.

anonymous

THE GIFT OF AWARENESS

Dear God, we ask for the gift of awareness. Too often we miss the little things that make our lives so wonderful. Help us to see your hand in the gentle gifts we give and receive and enable us to live life every moment we are alive. Amen

Bill Grossman, Rotary Club of Amherst East, NY

PROFESSIONAL'S CREED

As a Professional, I dedicate my professional knowledge and skill to the advancement and betterment of human welfare.

I pledge:

To give to utmost performance; To participate in none but honest enterprise;

To live and work according to the laws of man and the highest standards of professional conduct;

To place service before profit, the honor and standing of the profession before personal advantage, and the public welfare above all other considerations.

In humility and with need for Divine Guidance, I make this pledge.

Bill Swenson, Rotary Club of Buffalo, NY, USA

THE LONG VIEW

O God, give us the long view of our work and world. Help us to see the tasks before us and to know that it is better to fail in a cause that will ultimately succeed than to succeed in a task that will ultimately fail. Direct our projects and our efforts to meet the needs of our community. And as we gather today, bless the food which we are about to enjoy that it may strengthen our bodies for the service you have placed before us. Amen

anonymous

PLACE OF PEACE

O God, we pledge ourselves to work for peace. We gather in this peaceful place to share a peaceful meal with our friends and other Rotarians. Help us to build bridges of reconciliation to those who do not know peaceful times or peaceful meals. Amen.

Bill Grossman, Rotary Club of Amherst East, NY

We give you thanks, O God, for strengthening us with gracious food this day. Lead us in gratitude past boundaries that usually stop us into fields of service where we continue to share of the richness you have given our lives. Amen.

Bill Grossman, Rotary Club of Amherst East, NY

SEE THE LESSON

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day; I'd rather one should walk with me
Than merely show the way; The eye's a better pupil, And more willing than the ear;
I find counsel is confusing, But examples always clear. I soon can learn to do it,
If you'll let me see it done; I can see your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may
run. And the lectures you deliver may be very fine and true, I'd rather get my lesson by
observing what you do. For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give, but
there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

Jean Hoffman, Buffalo NY USA

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

In a world where conflict often appears to be a way of life, we give thanks that, as
Rotarians, we can reach across so many borders to offer comfort, counsel and service to
those in need. As we lift our voices in prayer, we give thanks that we have the ability to
offer our time, our talents and our fortunes to serve our neighboring men and women.
Thus in one accord, we join in fellowship and ask that this food nourish us
and help us better fulfill our commitment to "Service above Self." Amen

Bill Grossman, Rotary Club of Amherst East, NY

SOUNDS OF THE WORLD

Birds soar with circles of praise and butterflies flit with joy over rainbow-hued flowers
when the wind is right. Children skip faster and deer run swifter when the wind is at their
backs. Leaves clap their hands in delight and ocean waves roar their approval when the
wind whistles its tune. As Rotarians, we join hands to serve the world in all its wonder
and the people God has made. Amen.

Bill Grossman, Rotary Club of Amherst East, NY

ROTARY SERVICE

"In partaking of this meal may we remember those less fortunate than ourselves and, by
our deeds of Rotary service, may the day be brought nearer when no-one shall want for
food or fellowship." Amen

John Stanier, UK

O GRACIOUS GOD

O gracious God, you have brought us together for food and fellowship that we might be
strengthened for service. Be with us in all of our efforts. Amen.

Bill Grossman, Rotary Club of Amherst East, NY

PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN

There are no words for the depth of our love for the children.

We pray for their care and their protection. We surrender them into Your hands.

Please, dear God, send your Angels to bless and surround them always.

May they be protected from the darkness of our times. May they always see You at the center of their lives. May their hearts grow strong, to love and serve You. We surrender, dear God, our parenthood to You. Make us the parents You want us to be. Show us how to love most patiently, to be there for them most fully, to understand profoundly who they are and what they need.

May this community be a blessing unto them now and forever.

May they learn here values and principles of love and righteousness.

May they learn from us kindness. May they learn from us strength.

May they learn from us the lessons of power: that they have it, that they must surrender it to You to be used for Your purposes throughout their lives.

For thus shall You be gladdened, and thus shall they be free, to live most fully and love most deeply. That is our wish. That is our prayer for the children. Amen

Gene Meeks, Rotary Club of Buffalo, NY

MARVELOUS GOD

God of majesty who creates an eye-catching sunset, who carves out a Grand Canyon, who stuns us with giant sequoia trees, we gather in awe, in wonder, in silent adoration, for you are great and marvelous. This day is filled with your wonder and your tender care. You set a table before us and invite us to be fed. You place us in a community that cares and shares of the wonderful bounty of life. Bless the food we eat and the food we share. Amen.

Bill Grossman, Rotary Club of Amherst East, NY

THE BEGINNING

From the beginning, there was beauty in the ordinary and splendor in the commonplace. O God, don't ever let us forget that we are part of the ordinary and the commonplace who have gathered in this group to do the extraordinary for the uncommon.

Bill Grossman, Rotary Club of Amherst East, NY

THE BIGGER WORLD

O God of our mothers and fathers, we have gathered here today because we believe the world is bigger than just what I can see. You have given us a vision that enables us to help and serve far beyond the spot where we gather to eat together. Bless our efforts that we might serve You as we serve one another. Amen.

Bill Grossman, Rotary Club of Amherst East, NY