



ROTARY INVOCATIONS

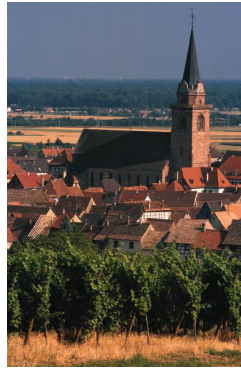
To create worldwide unity among religions through greater cooperation and improved understanding.

Micki Kaye, District Governor

District 6980

2005-2006

Blessed are you, Lord 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 to your Rotary service. Amen.



We beseech Thee, our Heavenly Father to bestow Thy grace upon this meeting. As we enjoy our fellowship, one with another, may we grow in stature, so that we may be able to give more to our friends in Rotary, and in turn give strength to the ideals of Rotary in the service to mankind. Amen.

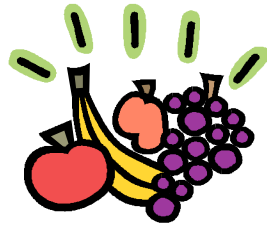
For friends, good, fun and fellowship, especially the fellowship of Rotary we give our sincere thanks. May these tokens of your bounty nourish our physical bodies in preparation for the challenges that are ours in Rotary. Keep us always mindful of the needs of others and keep us always attuned to our calling in Rotary. We ask these things in the Name of your Eternal Truth. Amen.

Help us today to see our opening prayer as conversation, really believing You hear us and care about what we say. Remind us that You are a perfect Father who listens carefully to His children and desires the very best for us. We thank You for this Family of Rotarians, to which we belong and ask that You bless us as we meet together. Amen.

Almighty God, we invoke a blessing upon this occasion of Rotary fellowship. Make us aware of the deeper significance of our meeting as we develop our friendships as the source of Rotary service-service radiating from this community to the wider community beyond. Amen.

Our Father who art in Heaven, may we, from the memories of this hour, derive inspiration that will be helpful to us individuals and as members of Rotary, and may it go with us in our daily walks of life and make us worthy of Thy blessing. We as in Thy Name. Amen.

Bless us, O Lord, with these, Thy gifts. Prosper us in our labor and grant that we may become true and loyal Rotarians, exemplifying the object of Rotary in our services to our communities and families. Amen.



Lord, we acknowledge Thee as the Creator and Sustainer of all life. In our pursuit of the secular, help us not to forsake the sacred. We look to Thee for meaning and fulfillment to life. Bless now this meeting of Rotarians. We thank Thee for the food. Amen.

It is good to recognize how different we are. Our talents, our dreams, our backgrounds, our occupations. And it is good to know that when You created each of us, You broke the mold. No one is exactly like anyone else. Even our thumbprint and our voice track tell us how unique we are. Yet, we thank You that we can take these differences and mobilize them for the good of Rotary and our community. In our differences we can think the same thoughts and move together toward a common goal. Bless us as we meet together. Thank You for our individuality and also for our common bond of Rotary. Amen.

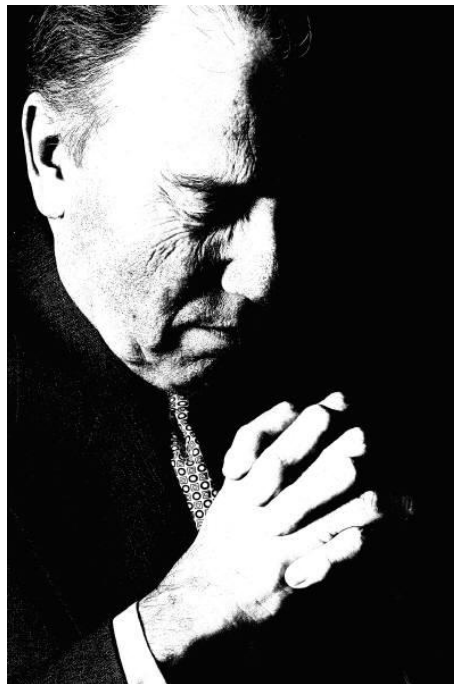


O Lord, bless this food for our nourishment and strengthen us for the burdens of service which we gladly shoulder in Your Name. Amen.

Today we pray that we 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 in service. Amen.

INDUCTION PRAYER

Let us pray silently together each of us according to our own individual beliefs. Let us offer thanks for our food and blessings for each other. Let us be a source of hope for those in need and contentment for those who are lonely. Let us give gratitude for our opportunity to serve Rotary. Let us give thanks to all our past leaders of this club. Grant the wisdom and vision to plan adequately and act correctly for our new Club President. From the ancient words of a Tibetan monk: Let the forces of light bring illumination to mankind. Let the spirit of peace be spread abroad. May men of goodwill everywhere meet in a spirit of cooperation. May forgiveness on the part of all men be the keynote at this time. Let power attend the efforts of the great ones. So let it be and help us do our part. Amen.



Thank you, Father, for the gift of Rotary and each other. Bless this food as we nourish our bodies and our minds. May we be ever mindful of those in need. Help us to provide food to the hungry; to heal the wounds of hatred with our love; comfort those in sorrow; bring peace to those living in areas of unrest. Through our service to all we thank you for all our gifts. Amen.

Let us pray. The gift of Rotary is evident in this room. Friends all about us with special gifts to share. We ask for you to be with each and every one of us as we move about our daily lives, always keeping in mind the special talents we have. Let us be fair and kind to those in our paths today. Let us focus on the objects of Rotary and implement these with your help. Amen.



Lord, bless this gathering of fellow Rotarians today. Please help us to see those in need and give us the strength and wisdom to serve our community as we should. Help us to lift the burdens of others while we maintain the dignity of humankind. Soften our hearts to be sensitive and loving as we serve together as Rotarians. Amen.

Dear Lord, being in Rotary allows us to serve others. We ask that you help us remember always the Four Way Test as we work today and everyday. Help us to serve humbly and willingly as we focus on the needs of our community. Thank you for our gifts and help us to use them wisely. Amen.

Prayer in Mourning

In times of sorrow we turn to you, our Creator. Let us bring comfort to those we remember in your service in Rotary. Bless the families in mourning and help us continue to do the work we must continue doing in their loving memory. Amen.

Prayer for Foundation Event



Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, as we gather this night let us be thankful for those dedicated to the principles of Rotary through their shining example of love, leadership and the gift of giving.

The spokes of the Rotary wheel are representative of the rules of pure conduct: We pray justice will be the uniformity of their length; wisdom the circle, modesty and thoughtfulness the hub in which the immovable axle the truth that is fixed.

All who recognize the existence of suffering, its cause, its remedy and its cessations have fathomed the four noble truths that bind us as Rotarians. We pray we will walk in the right path. The right view will be the torch to light our way. Right aspirations will be our guide. Right speech will be our dwelling place on the road to helping others. Right efforts contemplation that will give us the peace that follows.

As our Rotary wheel rolls forward towards our 100th Celebration it is moving with the same fortitude of Rotarians of years gone by and who continue to keep the hope of Rotary alive today. The Foundation of Rotary is only as strong as the building blocks of the Rotarians who truly care. Our donors tonight are our Foundation of hope for our future. Please bless our treasured of the Rotary Foundation always, for they are truly the spirit of Rotary.

Dear Lord, bless this food we are about to eat and may it be our nourishment to continue our Rotary service. May our motivation always be the work of Rotary bringing love, peace and harmony to all. Amen.



International Gathering Prayer:

O Holy God, we seek you not with sacred names. We know you count it not our credit by what tongue we call you.

When we gather together to eat and learn and plan you listen to hear us speak the truth;

You watch to see us act with justice for all;

You are made glad when we build friendship across the world's boundaries;

You are please when our deeds enhance the health and peace of all peoples.

We have ceased to do evil. May we learn to do good.

We have washed our hands. May our lives be clean.

Take delight in us, Oh God, and bestow your blessings upon us. Amen

General Prayers

We invoke the blessing upon this meeting and on people of goodwill every where.

May we prove ourselves worthy citizens of our country.

Devoted to truth, sincere in fellowship, given to service, and confident in steadfast faith. Preserve us faithful to these ideals. Let us stand firm when the fight is hard. Give us strength sufficient for this day. Make us as big as our problems and to stay bigger than our responsibilities. God help us to live up to our capabilities. Amen.

Bless all the former members of our Rotary club who have moved on, passed on or opted out. We pray that each one caught something of the spirit of our service.

Bloomed a little fuller, shined a little brighter because of the service experience.

We ask you to bless all the present members of our club that each will show a little more, give a little more, and be a little more because of the service experience.

We pray for the spirit that is best qualified to minister to the community's highest welfare.

The spirit that makes for better friendships, understandings, goodwill and cooperation. The spirit that permeates life, making it more harmonious and beneficial to all. Amen.

We are not at all sure what tomorrow holds, but we are very sure who holds tomorrow.

We thank you Lord for having called us to this community to live our lives and do our work for Rotary.

Grant us the wisdom and the foresight to discern what is for our own betterment and the betterment of all mankind.

Strengthen us in being a part of your power and influence. Prosper us in our calling, help us in our needs, guide us in our

as people pursuing peace. May peace and goodwill abide among us this day and always. Amen

Thank you for our Rotary meeting. For everyone that puts something into it, and everyone that gets something out of it. We invoke your blessings on this meeting and all who grace it with their presence. Lord, help us to be gentle with ourselves and one another, not expecting more than we can, nor they can produce. We know there is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it hardly behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us. Be with us this day and always by strengthening our belief in the ultimate triumph of truth and right. This prayer we make in the name of the way of truthful living. Amen



We invoke your blessing on this meeting and upon our being together. The joy of the Lord is our strength. We enjoy the fellowship we find here, as it makes us feel more regal than feeble. Help us to enjoy doing good, supporting and encouraging one another. Thank you Lord, for this good group and for letting us know that those great among us must first become great in serving others. Bless us with the pure pleasure of service and the joy of giving. Amen

Praise be to the Lord who brings food from the earth for good food, good friends, and Rotary. We thank you for the ideal of service to others. May blessings rest upon our being together and upon all our efforts as we seek to serve. Broaden our shoulders and brace our backs for the caring of our responsibilities. Help us do them nobly, with dignity and integrity. Now, for the gifts given and forgiven we thank you. Amen



We know that man who strives without divine assistance will find only cures that do not cure, blessings that do not bless, and solutions that do not solve. Send us your divine truth to heal us and our land. We pray for enough failure to keep us humble, enough success to keep us encourage. We pray you keep us low enough so we will always want to look up to you and high enough to help pull all those around us to a higher plateau of living. Father, keep us in need enough so we will always want to serve, produce and create and blest enough to share what we have with others. We pray keep us weak enough so we will always call for divine assistance and strong enough to bear one another's burdens. Thank you for Rotary and the ideal of Service. May your blessings rest upon us as we seek to serve. Amen

We pray today for forgiveness, as the power of forgiveness is in our hands. We pray for happiness and we learn we will be happy as we wish others to be. We pray for strength and you send troubles and burdens to bear. We discover carrying the load is what makes us strong. We pray for wisdom and you send us problems. It is then revealed to us finding solutions are what help us become wise. Great God, you do work in mysterious ways your wonders to perform. Thank you for making us part of your power and influence. May the words from our mouths and meditations from our hearts be found acceptable in your sight. Amen.

Dear Lord, We honestly believe the purpose of each life is to make a difference that we lived at all. We also are aware nothing does itself...machines don't make themselves, bricks don't lay themselves, nails don't drive themselves, buildings don't build themselves, lessons don't learn themselves, classes don't teach themselves, words don't memorize themselves, food doesn't prepare itself, skills don't develop themselves, projects don't plan themselves. Someone has to do everything that is done, make everything that is made, and think everything that is thought. We know the next move is up to us, therefore, we pray for your divine guidance in our every thought, intention and action. Amen

I thank many Rotarians for their contributions to this booklet. Let's celebrate Rotary and each other!

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The Following Contributions are from District 7730



We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war;
For we know that You have made the world in a way
That we must find our own paths to peace
Within ourselves and with our neighbors.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God,
To end starvation;
For You have already given us the resources
With which to feed the entire world,
If we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God to root out prejudice;
For You have already given us eyes
With which to see the good in others,
If we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair;
For You have already given us the power
To clear away slums and to given hope,
If we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease;
For You have already given us great minds
With which to search out cures and healings,
If we would only use them constructively.

Therefore we pray to You instead, O God,
For strength, determination, and will power,
To do instead of to pray,

To become instead of merely to wish,

For Your sake and for ours, speedily and soon,
That our land and our world may be safe,
And that our lives may be blessed.

My the words that we pray and the deeds that we do
Be acceptable to You, O Lord, Amen. *Written by Jack Riemer*

Heavenly Father,
We thank you for the food that is before us and for Your many blessings. We thank You today for the privilege of being here among friends, for the opportunity to share ideas and to serve our community.

Dear God, help us to understand others, to learn to cooperate with our neighbors and friends, and to find enjoyment in study, work and play. Give us the wisdom to realize that our purpose here involves honesty, charity, and concern for all humankind.

Teach us to respect the religious beliefs of others and to promote freedom of thought and expression. Let us live the 4-Way Test by being fair and truthful with all people at all times. We pray for the day when the world is free from all hatred, racism and bigotry; but until that day, help us to work together in our own community to make our home peaceful and welcoming place for all Your children.

May Your blessings rest upon our nation and all its inhabitants. Guard and protect our land, soldiers and citizens from all danger. Help us to live the words that we pray, and let us say Amen.

Dear Lord, Source of Hope and Healing
We pray for the comfort of the victims and survivors of this terrible disaster affecting so many lives.

Help us to remember the words of the Chasidic sage, Reb Nachum of Bashlav, who tells us that the whole world is a very narrow bridge, but the important thing is not to be afraid to cross that bridge because Your sheltering spirit is with us always

Let us be mindful of the sanctity of life and of the thread that binds all humanity. Help us to remember that we are indeed our brothers' keepers, and that if our lives are to have meaning, we must be Your worthy instruments in the improvement of this world.



And we join together to partake of this food and fellowship, let us be thankful for the blessings in life, the blessings of friendship and love, and of family and community.

Two thousand years ago, a great sage,
Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel said
that the world stands upon three things:
 Upon Truth,
 Upon Peace,
 And upon Justice.

As it is written in the book of Zechariah,
“Speak truth each to the other, establish peace,
and render honest judgment in your gates”.

Heavenly Father, may these words
as well as the words of the Rotary Four-Way Test
- to speak the truth, to be fair, to establish goodwill for all –
May these words inspire us in our daily work and in our daily lives
to do our share as Your partners on Earth to make this a better world.

May the words that we pray and the deeds that we do
Be acceptable to You, O Lord,
Our Rock and our Redeemer, and let us say Amen.

Election Day



Gracious God,
We are thankful to be living in a land that affords its citizens the precious gift of liberty and democracy, a land where we can enjoy the privilege of choosing our leaders. May we never take this privilege for granted, and may we always be reminded that we must be diligent in protecting this sacred heritage.

May Your gracious blessings rest always upon our beloved nation and upon those who defend its shores. Help us always to be mindful of our responsibilities to our great nation, to our community, and to our fellow human beings.

We ask You, Merciful Father, to endow our leaders with wisdom and understanding, patience and courage, to meet the great challenges that divide us and that plague the world.

Grant us the breadth of vision to build bridges of understanding among all the citizens of our land. May we never forget the common bond of kinship that unites all who were created in Your holy image.

May the words that we pray and the deeds that we do be acceptable to You, O Lord, Amen.

Gracious God,
As we gather together as Rotarians and friends,
We acknowledge that wherever we go,
We are always in Your presence.
We pray that our actions may reflect this awareness
As we seek Your nearness and as we count our many blessings
In the weeks and in the months ahead.

Clothe our lives with charity.
Deepen our lives with loyalty.
Hallow our lives with integrity.

Help us to live our lives so that may enhance
the future of those whose lives we touch.

May Your radiant spirit
Guide us, and our loved ones, all of our days,
Amen.

Dear Lord,
There are so many things that we take for granted. Let us not ignore them today.
Help us, Gracious God, remember that life is a gift. That our health is a blessing, that today is a new
day filled with awesome potential, and that we have the capacity to bring something wholly new and
unique and good into this world.

Help us to remember, dear Lord, to be kind and patient with the people who love us and to those
with whom we work and interact each day.

Teach us to see all the beauty that we so often ignore, and to listen to the silent longing of our own
souls. Help us, O Lord, to remember You and to be worthy instruments of Your will, Amen.



Gracious God, Let us live in peace.
Let children live in peace,
In homes free from brutality and abuse.
Let them go to school in peace,
Free from violence and fear.
Let them play in peace, Dear God,
In safe parks, in safe neighborhoods;
Watch over them.
Let husbands and wives love in peace,
In marriages free from cruelty.
Let men and women go to work in peace
With no fears of terror or bloodshed.
Let us travel in peace; protect us, God,
In the air, on the seas, whatever road we take.
Let nations dwell together in peace,
Without threat of war hovering over them.
Help us, God. Teach all people of all races and faiths,
In all countries all over the world,
That the peace that seems so far off is in fact within our reach.
Let us all live in peace, God, and let us say Amen.





Eternal God,

We are grateful for the food that is before us, for the friendship at these tables, and for Your many blessings.

Help us to understand others, to learn to lend a hand to our neighbors and friends, and to find enjoyment in study, work and play. Give us the wisdom to realize that our obligation to You involves honesty, charity, and concern for the welfare of humanity.

Teach us to respect the religious beliefs of others and to promote freedom of thought and expression. Let us be fair and truthful with all people and all times. May our work with Rotary inspire us to improve our community and our world.

May Your blessings rest upon our country and all its inhabitants. Guard and protect our land from all danger. We pray that friendship and service to others be our watchword always. Amen.

Dear God, We ask Your blessings for our city and for our country, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority.

Help our leaders to gain insight through Your wisdom, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly; so that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever be present in our midst.

Creator of all flesh, bless all of our citizens with Your spirit, to that peoples of all races and creeds will forge a common bond of true brotherhood, so that we may banish all hatred and bigotry, and safeguard the ideals and free institutions which are our country's pride and glory.

May this land under Your providence be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all humanity in peace and freedom and so that we may soon fulfill the vision of Your prophet: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation and neither shall we learn war anymore". Amen

As we join together as Rotarians and friends, we acknowledge our many blessings in life. And that wherever we go we are always in Your presence.

Although we sometimes have problems with business, we are thankful to You that we are working and that we have the opportunity to achieve.

Although we sometimes are troubled with concerns about our home and families, we are grateful to You, O Lord, that we are blessed with homes and families.

Although we sometimes complain of aches and pains, we are appreciative of our health and of our capacity to heal.

We are grateful for our many blessings, Gracious God.
Help us to live so that we may enhance the future of those whose lives we touch.

May Your radiant spirit guide us, and our loved ones,
All the days of our lives.
And let us say Amen.

Rotary Foundation Dinner

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the food that is before us and for your many blessings. We thank you for the privilege of belonging to this organization of Rotary, for the fellowship and support from our friends here this evening, for the opportunity to share ideas, but mostly for the opportunity to serve.

Dear God, we appreciate how blessed we truly are – with more than simply the necessities of life, with prosperity, with family, with friendship.

As we enjoy the support within the “family of Rotary”, help us to reach out to those families less fortunate than us within our own community and around the world.

As we appreciate our health, give us the means through our work with the Rotary Foundation to help cure the ills of the world. And may we see the day soon when polio will be eliminated from the face of the earth.

As we enjoy this meal together, inspire us to work to rid the world of hunger and to help bring to the world clean drinkable water.

And as we consider Your teachings, inspire us to serve You so that there may truly be peace and understanding throughout the world.

Gracious God, Help us to work together within Rotary so that we may do Your bidding on this earth.
And let us say Amen.



Merciful father, as we gather together as friends in the spirit of Rotary fellowship and service, we invoke Your blessings.

In the words of the Psalmist, "How good and how pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to sit down together in unity and in peace".

Bless all who are in our prayers,
And all who should be in our thoughts.

To the sick and suffering, send Your hope;
To the forgotten and the lonely, send Your love;

To the confused and distressed, send Your light;
To the weary and the wronged, send renewed strength;

To the pursuers of justice, send wisdom and faith;
To the seekers of peace, send unwavering resolve;

To those assembled in this room and our loved ones,
Send tranquility and joy;
And to the world, send Your blessings of peace.

May Your radiant spirit
Guide us, and our loved ones, all our days.
And let us say Amen.

God of Justice and Remembrance,
Let us never forget that You made us each a difference shade so that our eyes might glory in the richness and variety of human colors. Help us to always remember that we are all blessed, that we are all one people, that we are one human race created in Your Holy Image. We pray for the day when we will be able to eliminate all racism and prejudice; but until that day, help us work together as a community to make our home a peaceful, glorious, welcoming place for all God's children.

Dear Lord,

We pray for the patience to listen, the courage to reach out, the strength to trust, and the capacity to heal.
May the words that we pray and the deeds that we do be acceptable before you, O Lord, Our Rock and Redeemer, and let us say Amen.

Inspired by the words of Lone Jenson, formerly Pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Wilmington

Father,

As we join together today as Rotarians and as friends,
We acknowledge that wherever we go, we are always in Your Presence.
We pray that our Actions may reflect this awareness
For whatever our future will bring.
If we must face disappointment, help us to learn patience.
If we must face sorrow, help us to learn sympathy.
If we must face pain, help us to learn strength.
If we must face danger, help us to learn courage.
If we must face failure, help us to learn endurance.
If we achieve success, help us to learn gratitude.
If we attain prosperity, help us to learn generosity.
If we win praise, help us to learn humility.
If we are blessed with joy, help us to learn sharing.
If we are blessed with health, help us to learn caring.
And as we stand before You today,
Help us to learn the value of Service Above Self.
May your Radiant Spirit
Guide us and our loved ones, all our days,
And let us say Amen



SERVICE Above Self