

## **Guidelines for Invocations and/or Moments of Inspiration at Rotary meetings:**

These guidelines are intended to simplify and encourage everyone to feel comfortable participating in this portion of our weekly meetings. Rotary invocations should be short and simple, acceptable to any religious denomination.

Like all presentations, it is recommended that what you say be considered and practiced in advance. Please review the following as you prepare to give the invocation.

### **NON-DENOMINATIONAL INVOCATIONS FOR ROTARY MEETINGS**

Rotary is a non-discriminatory, non-political, and non-denomination organization. Rotary is comprised of members from a wide range of religious faiths, and for that reason Rotary International recommends non-denominational meeting invocations that give no reference to beliefs of specific religions.

#### **Rotary Invocations** can:

- a. Give thanks and ask blessing for those who serve us, (e.g. leaders of our local, state or nation; law enforcement; fire and rescue; healthcare workers, etc.)
- b. Give thanks and ask for wisdom for leaders of all types (e.g. each of us as individuals and business owners or managers and leaders of our country.)
- c. Give thanks for relationships between one another, our family, our friends, and community.
- d. Give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy, our abundant food, a home, freedom, etc.
- e. Be a request that we each have wisdom, integrity, patience and good humor in our dealings with everyone we encounter.
- f. Ask a blessing on a case-specific basis (e.g. difficult international, national, or local emergency events such as tornado, blizzard, earthquake, tsunami, etc.)
- g. Be invitations for the group to share a moment of silence to reflect on any of the above.

#### **Moments of Inspiration:**

**Can be used in place of an invocation.** We all have quotes, poems or **short** inspirational stories that have touched our lives or are appropriate to the speaker topic or what is happening in the world around us. Feel free to share.

## **Suggested Rotary Invocations**

(You are not obligated to use one of these.)

### **Invocation 1**

Thank you for this chance to be together with these business friends and associates. Bless our time and fellowship together. Amen

### **Invocation 2**

Thank you for this food and for those who graciously serve it to us. Help us to appreciate those who serve us on a weekly basis. We also thank you for others who serve us, Police and other law enforcement officers, Fire and Rescue professionals and our Service Men and Women around the world. Bless us and give us the humility to serve each other, and our community effectively. Amen

### **Invocation 3**

Thank you for each of our safe arrival here today. May we demonstrate professionalism, integrity, and respect in our interactions with one another and each person we encounter today. Help us balance confidence and humility, seriousness and humor, leadership and service as we begin and ultimately complete this day. Amen

### **Invocation 4**

I would ask you to join me in a moment of silent mediation this morning. As you do, please remember the blessing of this meal, our relationships together and the chance to live in this fine land (allow the room to be silent for 45 – 60 seconds and then say, Amen).

### **Invocation 5**

As we begin this time together, we are mindful of those in Haiti, New Orleans, Indonesia (insert appropriate location) who are in the midst of this difficult event. Be with rescue workers and government leaders around the world (or country) as they assess and begin to work through this tragedy. Give them wisdom and be with individuals who are suffering. Show us ways we can be helpful. Amen

### **Invocation 6**

As we begin this time together may you give each of us wisdom and grace in our dealings with each other, others in our respective organizations and those others who we come in contact with today. Also, help us see the many good things around us and ways we can be a blessing to someone we encounter today. Help our words to be positive, and in those instances where they must provide correction, clear and season with humility rather than arrogant and destructive. Amen

### **Invocation 7**

Thank you for the blessing of life, the chance to be here this morning with friends and business associates. Thank you for our safe arrival, this meal and our guests. Help us make productive use of our time together here at Rotary and in each setting where we find ourselves today. Grant us wisdom, peace and a sense of gratitude for the many opportunities and possessions we have. Amen.