Invocations for Rotary

Compiled from many sources, attributed, where possible.

Rotary Themes

New Rotary Year

Our thanks, Lord, for those gathered here and for the sense of high purpose we share. As we begin a new year, grant our new officers stamina, patience and a sense of humor, that we may relax together and so create meaningful fellowship and selfless service, without taking ourselves too seriously in this your world and Rotary service. *Amen.*

Pastor Clifford J. Swanson, Northfield Rotary

Local Club Special Occasion

We pause in the daily flow of life to pay special tribute this hour for what it signifies in the history of our Club. We have often heard mentioned our motto, "Service Above Self." In your divine wisdom, you know how difficult it is for us (with all our human weaknesses) to actually achieve such a high standard, either in part or in full measure. We ask that you sustain us, both individually and collectively, in our efforts to come closer to this goal we are striving to achieve.

May Rotary, with its vast interlocking membership, be an influence for good throughout the world, and may the ongoing precepts of our club be acceptable in your sight. *Amen.*

Gene McLaughlin, Austin Rotary

Peace and Leadership

Thank you, God, for giving us citizenship in this "Sweet Land of Liberty." We offer praise to you for its bountiful gifts. We are humbly mindful and appreciative of those who are willing to risk their lives, and those who have released their loved ones to answer the call to arms for freedom. We prayerfully remember those who sleep and wake to danger so that we may sleep in peace. We ask your strength and sustenance for those who wait with vigilant hope for the safe return of their loved ones from the battlefield. Please give our world leaders knowledge and wisdom as they seek to lead our world to peace. Watch over us, God – and bring us safely through this day. Thank you for this food, this fellowship of friends, and this glorious day. *Amen.*

By Diane Confer, District 5950/5960 Youth Exchange Executive

Science Speaker or Topic

O God, Creator of the Universe, we thank you that we live in this age of scientific discovery. We listen as science tells us of other planets, solar systems and galaxies in the limitless space of your creation. How little we are compared with all that you have made, how amazing is your love, the heavens declare your glory, and the world around us shows your handiwork. How great you are . . . and greatly to be praised. *Amen.*

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

Club Assemblies and Board Meetings

Almighty God, as Rotarians we have each accepted a responsibility far beyond our ability to completely fulfill. We ask for your blessing upon our club and its activities. Help us to select and engage ourselves in activities that meet the Four Way Test and may our conduct be exemplary when dealing with one another and those around us. *Amen.*

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

Peace

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of peace proceed, we pray for the peacemakers of the world. Give your grace and blessing to all agencies that are working for peace among nations. Give to all national leaders a vision of peace through justice, and to all people a new enthusiasm for the cause of peace. Confound the peace-breakers and hasten the day when peace shall come to reign forever and ever. *Amen.*

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

For International Guests

Thank you, God for bringing us together today at this wonderful event of world friendship and goodwill. We ask for a special blessing on our international guests. We thank you for the leadership of this Rotary Club and those who have organized this program. Thank you for all you provide for us as we go forward in service. *Amen.*

Austin Rotary Club

Is It The Truth?

O God of Wisdom, Light and Truth, help us to renew our dedication to truth in our personal and business lives. We trust your changelessness and reliability. Your truth under girds the whole universe. O God, we honor you today by respecting truth wherever it is found; by speaking truth with integrity; and by practicing truth in all dealings. Enrich our friendship in Rotary as we share our time together today. Bless us as we serve. *Amen*.

Is It Fair to All Concerned?

O God, who claims all the children on earth to be your children, teach us to live together as brothers and sisters, members of a common family. Teach us to be fair to one another, trusting everyone with the same respect and dignity that are found in the noblest families. Let us reach out as friends to all with whom we do business, trusting them and encouraging their trustful response. Help us always to give the benefit of the doubt to those who appear to differ with us, creating a climate of cooperation rather than nurturing suspicion. You have blessed us with goodness and mercy far exceeding anything we deserve. Make us equally generous in all our dealings with our associates. Bless the time we spend together as Rotarians, and to you be the glory. *Amen.*

Will It Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?

O Lord, whose will it is that all your people should dwell together in harmony, we give you thanks for the opportunities we find in Rotary to widen our circle of friendship and goodwill. We are grateful for new friends whom we have come to know in this club and for the joys we have found in sharing our own friendship with others. Lead us daily to find new avenues of goodwill in our business and professional life. Give us patience in dealing with those who are sharp and bitter. Give us creativity in finding ways to express ourselves, which will build better relationships. And Lord, give us a sense of humor that we may not take ourselves too seriously. Bless this club in its activities and its outreach to our own

community. May our world be a better place because we have been here. Amen.

Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?

O God, who has compassion and concern for all people of every race and place, keep always before us, as Rotarians, that same loving concern. May it infuse our relationships with each other and with our friends and neighbors. May we extend it to all with whom we deal in daily business and social life. Whenever we sign a contract, establish a policy, or give an order, may the welfare of the other parties involved be taken into account. O Lord, in humble recognition of your abundant goodness to us, may we never permit selfishness and greed to control our affairs. Bless us as we gather today and may joy and peace be among us. *Amen.*

Stanley Borden, Roseville Rotary

Four Way Test

O Lord, in our daily application of the Four Way Test, grant us The vision of Faith, The inspiration of Hope, and The blessings of Charity. *Amen*.

Al McCormick, St. Paul Rotary

Our Best Efforts

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. Len Scheffler Rotary Club of Columbia-Northwest, Columbia, MO*

Bonds of Rotary Between Us

Let us take a moment to remember all the religions represented in the Rotary family throughout the world. Let us also recall that when we were invited to join our Rotary clubs we were not asked, "Are you a Christian, a Hindu, a Muslim, a Jew, a Buddhist, or a Sikh?" We were not asked because all religions are welcome in the Rotary family. Please join me in a moment of reflection and thanks:

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 of a Polio-free world,

We are thankful for our Rotary friends and the time we are about to share.

Thank You, Shalom, Amen.

Chris Offer, Past Governor 5040

Bidding to a 30-second Silent Prayer

Announce: "I invite you to a 30-second silent prayer... Will you please bow your head with me?"

- Let us pray silently together, each of us according to our individual beliefs.
- Let us offer thanks for our food, blessings for one another and for absent friends

• Let us seek to be a source of hope for those in need, and companionship for those who are lonely.

• Let us give gratitude for our opportunity to serve as Rotarians.

• Let the feelings of love, kindness, and a well-directed, yet gentle spirit always be reflected in our actions.

A 30-second pause followed by: "Amen."

Jim Gray

Life Service Not Lip Service

God of all, today we pray that we may receive your 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 who are not as fortunate as we are. May our motto that includes serving, caring and sharing be for us life service not just lip service. *Amen.*

Phil Morris, Furnitureland Rotary Club, High Point, NC

Service Above Self

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 ands understanding. *Amen.*

Ken from Wisconsin

Always in Your Presence

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 you 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, and hallow our lives with integrity. Help us to live our lives so that we 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.*

A Strong Desire To Do Good

Lord of the Universe, you have given most of mankind a strong desire to do good, to be honest, to serve others, and to faithfully fulfill their obligations to their neighbors.

Help us, as Rotarians and humans, to do good.

Help us, as Rotarians and humans, to be honest and ethical in all our dealings.

Help us, as Rotarians and humans, to serve others.

And help us, as Rotarians and humans, to faithfully fulfill our obligations as neighbors to our community, our nation, and the world. *Amen.*

Joseph D. Coons, Bellingham WA

Individuality and Common Bond

Creator of all: It is good to recognize how different we are in our talents, our dreams, our backgrounds and 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. *Amen.*

Phil Morris, Furnitureland Rotary Club, High Point, NC

Guide and Direct Our Club

Creator and sustainer of all that is or will ever be, accept our thanks for this day and all its blessings. We ask that you guide and direct our club, its leaders and our actions. Grant that each of us may feel our responsibility to Rotary, to our community, to our country, and indeed to all countries and peoples. Bless our friendship today, and bless this meeting. *Amen.*

Mindful of Opportunities

As we gather here today as members of Rotary, we pray that we are ever mindful of opportunities to render our service to fellow citizens and to our community. Keeping in mind always the enduring values of life, exerting our efforts in those areas and on those things upon which future generations can build with confidence. Let us continue to strive to make a better world. *Amen.*

Review Our Checkbooks

Lord of the Universe: many have said that you can judge a person by their checkbook records. As Rotarians, we are generally blessed with lives of relative luxury, and opportunities unknown to many. Help us to review our checkbooks, and, indeed, the registers of our lives with honesty as we consider our priorities, and our opportunity to help others. Open our hearts, and our accounts, to those in need, while still providing us with appropriate fruits of our own labors. Help us to share not only our tangible wealth, but also our intangible riches of knowledge, leadership, and creativity to make our city, our nation, and our world, a better place filled with the peace and love that you can bring through us. *Amen.*

Joseph D. Coons, Bellingham WA

Thankful for the Blessings of the Day

We have gathered in the spirit of truth, fairness, goodwill, friendship and concern for others. We are thankful for the blessings of this day, this country, and for this unique gathering of service-minded community leaders.

Lord, even as we pray these words and express these thoughts, we are not always the people we would like others to think we are. In this paralysis of spirit, we contribute to unrest, indifference to our neighbor's needs, and pre-occupation with material standards.

Dear God, you who are so patient, so caring, and so understanding, forgive our inadequacies and help us to model your direction and love. Now we humbly ask that you would bless this gathering and us to a deeper commitment to service. *Amen.*

Ron Phillippo, St. Paul Rotary

Serve Others, Serve God

Our God, we ask you to look upon us and grant us your love, your mercy and your understanding. Forgive us for anything you have seen amiss in us today. Put into our hearts the ideal of service; keep us alert to the needs of others; bless the work of Rotarians everywhere and let us remember that when we serve others, we serve you.

Bless and watch over those absent from us today. We thank you for all the good things you have bestowed upon us. We thank you for our club and this meeting. *Amen.*

Woodbury A. Palmen, Wabasha Rotary

Strengthen Us

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 with Rotary. Grant us the wisdom and the foresight to discern what is for our own betterment and the betterment of all humankind. 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 work as people pursuing peace. May peace and goodwill abide among us this day and always. *Amen.*

Good in the Worst of Us, Bad in the Best of Us

Thank you for our Rotary meeting, for everyone that puts something into it, and everyone that gets something out of it. We ask 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 any of us 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.*

Strength Sufficient

We ask God's blessing upon this meeting and on people of goodwill everywhere. 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.*

Past and Present

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, and the spirit that permeates life, making it more harmonious and beneficial to all. *Amen.*

The Rotary Wheel

Dear God, as we gather, 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 their uniform length, wisdom the circle, modesty and thoughtfulness the hub in which the immovable axle of truth is fixed.

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

As our Rotary wheel rolls forward, it is moving with the same strength of Rotarians of years gone by and who continue to keep the hope of Rotary alive today. Rotary is only as strong as the building blocks of the Rotarians who truly care.

May the enduring spirit of Rotary inspire us today. Amen.

Divine Assistance

We know that people who strive 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 encouraged. We pray you keep us low enough that 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. God, keep us in need enough so we will always want to produce and blessed enough to share what we have with others. 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.*

Privilege of Service

We are grateful, O God, for the privilege of offering ourselves for service. Give us open minds, a clear understanding and a steady purpose to make the most of our talents, and lead us into the fields of work where we can best serve you. *Amen.*

We Are All Responsible

Dear Lord, we do not love you until we love our neighbors as ourselves. Help us to bring the blessing of love and fellowship to others. Let us not be content, O Lord, when others go hungry, or be serene while some lack their daily bread. Help us to be among those who are willing to sacrifice that others may not be hungry, who dare to be bearers of light to the dark loneliness of stricken lives. Let us not harden our hearts nor close our hands against the poor. Let our hearts be moved by the misery of others, and let us dare what must be dared. We are all responsible. *Amen.*

Jane Dickinson, Stillwater Rotary

Seasonal, Holiday and Special

Spring

Almighty God, giver of life, creator of the universe, we your humble tenants desire your help and guidance as we exercise the purpose of Rotary. We appreciate the privilege given us as Rotarians to farm the field of human relationships. It is our great desire to close the gap between what is and what could and should be.

Help us to remember that in Rotary, we are loaned an identification. So, in most of life, what we have has come as a gift from others. In our world we are laced together with interrelationships. Like the seed and the soil, we are dependent upon one another.

Please help us to use this Rotary meeting to your desires. May those in leadership know your guiding presence and purpose. And now bless all who gather at these tables. *Amen.*

Reverend Paul W. Neal, South St. Paul/Inver Grove Heights Rotary

Springtime, Renew Our Obligation to Be of Service

Lord of the Universe, Rotarians worldwide acknowledge your power, and your expectation that we be of service to mankind. Let us renew our obligation to fulfill that expectation, just as the return of spring renews growth in the world around us, with a new commitment to help others in our community, our nation, and our world. With the power, influence, and wealth that we as leaders in this place most certainly have, let us always remember that these are a blessing from you, and that charity is more fulfilling than decadence, and the Golden Rule a much richer yardstick than any bank account. *Amen*.

Joseph D. Coons Bellingham WA

Summer

O Lord, in the beauty of this summer day we find assurance that in addition to the order of the universe and the reasonableness of creation, you have willed beauty and loveliness to give special meaning to all that you have made. In the joy and gladness that we feel on such a day, we know that we are your own creation, brought forth in goodness and called to higher things. Strengthen within us our commitment to find eager satisfaction in service above self.

On this summer day we ask your special blessing on Rotary, that it may continue to build harmony and create justice and promote peace among the people of the world. Bless its efforts for the welfare of children, its concerns for training and educating youth, its leadership in building ties of friendship and cooperation among the nations and races of the world. Bless our leaders and our companionship this day. *Amen.*

Stanley Borden, Roseville Rotary

Independence Day

Almighty God we thank you for all your goodness to us.

We thank you for the white drifting clouds in the blue sky.

We thank you for the red of blooming roses.

We thank you for our banner of these same beautiful colors and for the Independence we have enjoyed under it.

We thank you for food, fellowship, and opportunities to serve. Amen.

Harold E. Anderson, Alexandria Rotary

Labor Day

O God, who is the master craftsman, whose exquisite detail and whose soaring splendors we vainly strive to emulate, we turn to You this Labor Day weekend to bring the work of our minds and hands to the touchstone of Your high standards.

When we think of the work of your hands, like the beauty of butterfly wings, or a moonlit sea, our own work seems so poor and crude and so much is left undone.

Yet we thank You that we can work and serve and while doing so, we can pray that You will inspire us with Your passion for excellence, so that while we build we may beautify, while we serve we may heal, while we work we may worship. *Amen.*

Pastor Donald Carlson, Edina Rotary

Autumn

Almighty God, we thank you for this beautiful season when the greens of summer gloriously turn into the reds and golds and purples of autumn, truly we see your handiwork in all things. May we see your abundance in the harvest. In the midst of the changing seasons, help us to remember that you are the same yesterday, today, and forever, that your love shall always keep watch over humanity. Today may we place ourselves in the hollow of your hand and face the new dawn and its experiences with a simple trust in your love for every person. *Amen.*

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

Autumn

Mysterious God who comes out of misty mornings to say we're okay, and that there is hope, and life is worth living, and that you care about us, help us Rotarians take the marvel of an autumn day, with all its bountiful splendor and its wistful wonder, as a sign of your caring, not just about us, but about all the world's children.

Help us to care about people who are hurt. Give us a conscience about the cruelty of war. Show us how we can be healers, and reconcilers, and lovers in the world. Let our sharing together around these tables make us better able to be your servants in this tough world today. *Amen.*

Reverend Arthur A. Rouner, Jr., Edina Rotary

Harvest

Let us give thanks for a bounty of people.

For children who are our second planting, and, though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon carries them away, may they forgive us our errors in cultivation and celebrate their roots.

Let us give thanks...

For generous friends, with hearts and smiles as bright as their blossoms;

For feisty friends as tart as apples;

For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us that we've had them;

For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;

For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn, and the others, as plain as potatoes and so good for us;

For funny friends, who are odd as brussels sprouts and as amusing as artichokes, and serious friends, as complex as cauliflower and as intricate as onions;

For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini, and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see us through the winter;

For friendships that are hard won, like nuts that are hard to crack;

For the potential of every person, who, like grapes can become fine wine;

For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time and young friends coming on as

fast as radishes;

For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts and witherings;

And, finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past, that have been harvested, but who fed us in their times that we might have life hereafter;

For all these we give thanks. *Amen.*

Reverend Max Coots, First Universalist Society, New York Submitted by Phil Oswald, St. Paul Rotary

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is Thanks-Living, and all who call themselves Rotarians have good cause to thank God for the country in which we live and in being blessed beyond our fondest dreams.

For the fertility of the soil, its rivers and streams, its lakes and its forests: God be praised!

As Rotarians we need not be reminded to be thankful for all the rich natural resources by which humanity is enabled to make provision for every need, both spiritual and material.

Thanks be to God! In our assembling today, may we be a witness of our faith to our fellow beings and the provisions that we enjoy on the table.

In Your name we rejoice. Amen.

Reverend Walter F. Pearson, St. Peter Rotary

Christmas/Hanukkah

Gracious Eternal God, this is the season of light: light from the festive glow of the Menorah, warmth from the Yule log fire, radiant beams from the tender face of the babe born in Bethlehem.

In this the darkest of months, we give thanks for the light you bring to humankind. We give thanks for the light this Rotary Club has shed throughout its long history on so many others, both here at home and throughout the world.

We ask that we be nourished by food, fellowship and reflection on our past... and energized to convey your perpetual light... forward into the future. *Amen.*

Craig W. Johnson, Austin Rotary

Christmas/Hanukkah, Golden Rule

Lord of the Universe, this is a time in our year when many of us turn our attention to the spiritual side of our lives, when we consider what light we follow...

Help us to understand that no matter what name it is given and in what language it is expressed, that philosophy called The Golden Rule is indeed the most true guidepost by which we can mark the trails of our existence here...

Remind us that if that concept were universally held as a standard, by the people of all nations and faiths, there would be no wars, no hunger, no crimes one against the other ...

We pray that you continue to bless the work that we as Rotarians, from many nations and of many faiths, do to help those less fortunate, for we believe that one manifestation of this Golden Rule is in our Rotary motto, Service Above Self.

Please give us an international time of peace on earth, good will towards men, inspired by

our great leaders and philosophers who themselves are inspired by you, O Lord.

And finally, we ask you to guide those who, as our government leaders, make their daily decisions that affect us, so that their efforts, whether international or local, shall be motivated by this same great rule of charity and good will. Thank you, Lord. *Amen*.

Joseph D. Coons, Bellingham WA

New Calendar Year

Almighty God, set us free this day from the spirit that makes for discord, from the temper that has no desire to forgive or forget, from the lack of faith in Your power to change the hearts of all who quarrel, enlarge our capacity to love all people, expand our wisdom to handle our responsibilities and to meet the demands of the New Year. *Amen.*

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor Roseville Rotary

New Calendar Year, Stay Focused

God of All Time: We stay focused on the objectives we have for the world: Peace, tranquility, a true Community of Humanity, freedom from hunger, from oppression, from sickness, 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? We reaffirm our commitment to high ethics in all we do. And we give thanks for all the blessings, opportunities and responsibilities that come to us as Rotarians. We continue in this New Year with optimism, renewed energy, and a commitment to service to all men and women. Please, Lord of the Universe, help us so to serve! *Amen*.

Joseph D. Coons Bellingham WA

Divine Imagination/Scout Law

God who is Creator of us all, we give thanks for divine imagination. We are truly blessed as God's children . . . boys and girls, women and men, unique and individual. O God, the tapestry of life that you have woven together is good, beautiful, warm, intimate, vivid, creative, rich and textured with the threads, stories, tales, histories, and yarns of individuals, families and communities. We give thanks for the sharing of ourselves that life, conversation, and communication make possible.

For the centering and grounding that enables us to stand strong and alert; purposefully committed to helping others and to building a community that is just and inclusive, we give You thanks. For the blessings of guidance, support and advice from our teachers, our leaders, our mentors, and our family, we give thanks.

We give thanks, O God, for our talents, our strengths and our values. Encourage our minds, embolden our hearts, and empower our spirits to be children, men and women, who are trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

So be it. Amen.

Indianhead Council, Boy Scouts of America

Vision of Universal Peace

Give us, O God, the vision that can see your love in the world in spite of human failure. Give us the faith to trust your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness. Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts, and show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming day of universal peace. *Amen.*

Astronaut Frank Borman's Christmas Eve invocation from the Apollo spaceship when other astronauts read Genesis, Chapter One over the radio (12/24/68)

Peaks and Valleys

God of Creation: the paths of our lives are filled with peaks and valleys. When we are on the top of our peaks, we become so self-satisfied that we tend to ignore the things of importance. When we are in a valley, we feel a sense of abandonment and can focus only on what action lies directly ahead of us. Remind us, as you do in nature, that above the tree line the mountain-tops are barren and only in the valleys can we find the opportunity for true growth. *Amen.*

Ronald Hanson, Rotary Club of Cloquet, MN

Strength, Determination, Willpower

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 give 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.

May the words that we pray and the deeds that we do be acceptable to you, O Lord. *Amen. Written by Jack Riemer*

Nothing Does Itself

Dear Lord, We honestly believe the purpose of each life is to make a difference that we lived at all. We also are aware that nothing does itself... machines don't make or run 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*

Irish Prayer

As each of us give our own thanks according to our personal persuasions let us dwell on

some thoughts that bind us together:

You've blessed us with friends and laughter and fun. With rain that's as soft as the light from the sun. You've blessed us with stars to brighten each night. You've given us help to know wrong from right. You've given us so much please, Lord give us too, a heart that is always grateful to you." *Amen.*

An Irish Prayer. Tim Creedon PDG Rotary Club of Phoenix # 100, Arizona

Mealtime

O Lord and giver of all good we thank you for our daily food. May Rotary friends and Rotary ways help us to serve thee all our Days. *Amen.*

Sung to the tune Tallis, Old 100th (Doxology)

Be present at our table Lord, be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we may feast in paradise with you. *Amen.*

Our thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for the opportunity to relax and share a common meal. To our bread, add the pleasure of good talk, and be welcome among us. *Amen.*

Pastor Clifford J. Swanson, Northfield Rotary

Almighty God, with grateful hearts, we thank you for this food; for the sun, soil and rain that nurtured it; the industry of the farmers who produced it; the skill of those who prepared it; the humility of those who serve it. May we enjoy the companionship it creates and be strengthened for service as we partake in peace and joy. *Amen.*

Pastor Clifford J. Swanson, Northfield Rotary

O God, we've dashed in here to this knife and fork club to stuff our overstuffed bodies. Help us to be as consistently concerned with: "Is it the truth, Is it fair to all concerned, Will it build goodwill and better friendships, and Will it be beneficial to all concerned" as we are about satisfying our own hunger pains. *Amen.*

Oley Wilson, St. James Rotary

We pray, Lord, that we may feel your presence with us at this meal. When we leave may we have fed on companionship as well as bread. Amen.

Reverend Loren Espeland, Redwood Falls Rotary

Almighty God, we thank you for this day and for this privilege of being gathered in Rotary fellowship. Please bless this food to our use, and us to your service. *Amen.*

Don Duerre, Wabasha Rotary

Eternal God, we offer our gratitude for this moment: for food, for our time together with friends, for this day's work. Grant the gifts of insight and wisdom for our work; give faithfulness and honesty to all. Bless our world with your peace. *Amen.*

Bruce Buller, Greater Rochester Rotary

Dear Lord, we thank you for this food and for the fellowship of Rotary. We pray that this food may strengthen us physically and our friendships may enrich us spiritually, that we may better do your will. *Amen.*

Jane Dickinson, Stillwater Rotary

Lord, we thank you for this food, for all the blessings that you give. Strengthen our bodies and our souls, and let us for service live. Amen.

Jane Dickinson, Stillwater Rotary

Almighty Giver of Good, we thank you for your loving kindness to us. You open your hand, and we are fed. Be at these tables, we pray, and bless our gathering together. *Amen.*

Jane Dickinson, Stillwater Rotary

We thank you, Lord, for happy hearts, for rain and sunny weather. We thank you, Lord, for this our food, and that today we are together. Amen.

Jane Dickinson, Stillwater Rotary

Dear Lord, we acknowledge your presence as we gather together on this day. We ask you to bless our time of fellowship and fun. We are grateful for the food that we are to be served. As we partake of this meal, help us to be mindful of those less fortunate than we. *Amen.*

Jeanne Doheny, Le Sueur Rotary

Eternal God, we offer our gratitude for this moment: for food, for our time together with friends, for this day's work. Grant the gifts of insight and wisdom for our work; give faithfulness and honesty to all. Bless our world with your peace. *Amen.*

Bruce Buller, Greater Rochester Rotary