

**A Collection of Contributions
Rotary International District 5960**

- **Invocations**
- **Table Graces**
- **Invocations for Special Occasions**

by Rotary Clubs and Rotarians in Rotary International District 5960



This collection of Invocations represents the thoughts of many Rotarians. It has been over twenty years since the last edition was published. Many clubs expressed a need for this publication and we hope the Invocations herein will fill a need during your club meetings.

Special thanks go to our 1993-94 District Chaplain, Robert Morgan, and Past District Governor, Roland D. Wilsey, for their review and contributions to this collection.

I hope you will find this book useful in your Rotary experience.

Jerry Meigs
Rotary International District 5960 Governor 1993-94

A Brief Invocation for Vision . . .

God grant that my vision of the faults of men and of nations be dimmed and my vision of their virtues be brightened.

Paul P. Harris Founder of Rotary

INTRODUCTION

In the Rotary year 1970-71, District 595 (later divided into District 595 and 596) compiled and printed a collection of Invocations for use at Rotary meetings. The booklet was expanded and reprinted in 1972-73, and has served the clubs in our district well for over twenty years. Recently there have been requests for a reprinting of the booklet. This present edition includes the Invocations of the earlier booklets, with the addition of some new material.

But times and styles of Invocation have changed in these last twenty years, most especially, as far as Invocation goes, in the direction of inclusive language. Also, for gatherings like Rotary, which reflect a cross-section of world religions, prayer style has changed in the direction of Invocations addressed to a "generic" deity. In keeping with the current spirit, Invocations from earlier editions of this booklet have been altered so as to be inclusive both of gender references and of religious outlooks and affiliations.

However, as the 1993-94 chaplain for Rotary District 5960, I feel I must put into the record this personal judgment: I am hesitant to require of our "prayers" that they pray to a generic deity or otherwise mask their own religious orientations and habits. An Invocation is a personal and varied expression of spirituality, and sincerity in Invocation is universally valued. It seems to me that those who hear (overhear? — true Invocations are not directed toward a human listening audience!) Invocations in a public meeting are the ones who need to be inclusive, giving room for all individuals to be honest in their own exercises and expressions of faith. Of course Invocations which are explicitly divisive are inappropriate when verbalized in a mixed group. Perhaps, because of current sensitivities in this area, each club should work out its own "guideline for group Invocation." In any case, the Invocations printed in this current edition of our Invocation book will not offend anyone because of gender references or, in most cases, references to a specific religion.

Fortunately for all of us, Past District Governor Roland D. Wilsey of Roseville, who contributed a third of the invocations in the 1972-73 edition of the book, was willing to review and revise both his own invocations and the other invocations in the earlier book. I am most grateful for his interest and his work.

We send this booklet out in the hope that, both directly and as a stimulus of suggestions, it will enrich the meetings of our clubs.

Reverend Robert A. Morgan Rotary International District 5960 Chaplain 1993-94

APPENDIX FOR 1993-94 EDITION OF THE ROTARY INVOCATION BOOK

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, has supplied us with the following material used at the International Assembly of Rotary on Sunday, March 1, 1987. It serves as a good illustration of the breadth of religious views embraced within the membership of Rotary International.

A Service of Unity (a liturgy to be shared by Rotarians)
"Rotary Brings Hope"

Leader: Let us stand together in our common fellowship and in silence offer our private thoughts in this moment of silent meditation. *Leader:* President Caparas has inspired Rotarians worldwide with the theme "Rotary Brings Hope," and has encouraged Rotarians to "touch the lives of the destitute, the disabled, and the disenchanteds . . . so that the world may rightly say, 'ROTARY BRINGS HOPE.' Yesterday we heard from President-Elect Charles Keller the inspiring theme for Rotary International in 1987-88: 'Rotarians-United in Service-Dedicated to Peace!'"

Now, to demonstrate our unity, while measured in diversity, I ask you to listen to these readings selected from some of the many religious documents which are the testaments of our Faiths.

1st Reader: From Zoroastrianism (also called Parsiism)-"Because the Creator created creation from one substance, he caused man to be born of one father, so that mankind, being of one substance, should sustain, provide for, and help one another, and men, being born of one father, should esteem each other as their own selves."

"When mankind achieves union firmly based on mutual love, the partisans of the Lie will lose all hope of being able to harm man, nor will they be able to change their own disunion into union." -
Denkart

Response: Let us take to heart the theme "Rotary Brings Hope," and make good things happen.

2nd Reader: From Confucianism-"Tsu Kung asked, saying 'Is there one word which may serve as a rule of practice for all of one's life?' The Master said, 'Is not shu (Reciprocity, Mutual Consideration) such a word? What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.'"

"Several disciples asked their master about the meaning of jen (love, magnanimity), and Confucius briefly answered, 'Love men.'"

"A superior man is devoted to the fundamentals. When the root is firmly established, the moral law will grow ... brotherly love" is a "root of Humanity."-The Analects of Confucius

Response: Let us open our minds to the meaning of the theme "Rotary Brings Hope," and make good things happen.

3rd Reader: From Buddhism-"As a mother, even at the risk of her own life, protects her son, her only son, so let a man cultivate love without measure toward all beings. Let him cultivate toward the whole world-above, below, around a heart of love unstinted, unmixed with the sense of differing or opposing interests."-From The Sayings of the Buddha

"This, O Bhikkus (Monks) is the Noble Truth of the Path which leads to the cessation of suffering: that holy eightfold path, that is to say, Right Belief, Right Aspiration, Right Speech, Right Conduct, Right Means of Livelihood, Right Endeavor, Right Mindfulness, Right Meditation."-From the Buddha's Sermon at the Deer Park at Benares, India

Response: Let us, with uncommon actions, make good things happen, because we realize that service begins with an acceptance of the theme, "Rotary Brings Hope."

4th Reader: From Hinduism-He who bears no ill will to any being, friendly and compassionate, without attachment and egoism, balanced in pleasure and piety, and forgiving, ever content, harmonious with the self controlled, resolute, with mind and reason dedicated to me, he ... is dear to me."-From The Mahabharata

"Whatever a man desires, he wills, and whatever he wills, he acts."-From The Upanishads

Response: Let us, with forthright purpose, make the theme "Rotary Brings Hope," a meaningful part of our individual lives.

5th Reader: From Islam-"Cooperate with one another in everything that is good and do not cooperate in anything evil or in aggression."

"Be true to your covenants, for to covenant is a serious and responsible affair. Fill the measure when you measure, and weigh with the true weight. Do not pursue that of which you have no knowledge. And remember that your hearing, sight and heart, as cognitive faculties, were given to you for a responsible function. Do not walk around with impudence and false pride for you will never be a match either to the earth or to mountain."-From The Quran

Response: Let us, with sincere concern, seek peace with and for others, because we understand the true import of the theme, "Rotary Brings Hope."

6th Reader: From Judaism-"He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."-From The Book of the Prophet Isaiah

"He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."-From The Book of the Prophet Micah

"You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another... You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him . . . You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor .. . You shall love your neighbor as yourself."-From The Book of Leviticus in the Torah

Response: Let us make the theme "Rotary Brings Hope:" a guiding principle in our lives through acts of care and concern for people.

7th Reader: From Christianity-"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."-From The Gospel of John

"Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the Law and the Prophets."-From The Gospel of John

"Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends . . . Faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love"-From I Corinthians

Response: Let us, with constancy and persistence, make the theme "Rotary Brings Hope" active in service.

Leader: We are one in the spirit of service.

All: Let us go forth with fervor to continue in our task of service with and for others.

Leader: Now, let us all depart in unity, sharing our awareness of the peace and love which fills our community in our parting salutations one with the other, and in our greetings to those who have not been with us in these moments of meditation.

Give us, O God, the vision which 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.

Five Steps to Build Peace

The fruit of Quieting our mind in *Silence* is meditation and prayer

The fruit of *Meditation and Prayer* is Faith

The fruit of *Faith* is Caring and Love

The fruit of *Caring and Love* is Service

The fruit of *Service* is **Peace**

(This meditation was printed on Mother Theresa's business cards.)

An invocation shared by Judy Freund at PETS 2008

O Great Spirit whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world,
Hear Me!
I am small and weak; I need Your strength and wisdom!
Let me walk in beauty and may my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.
Make my hands respect the things You have made,
Make my ears sharp to hear Your voice.
Make me wise so that I may understand the things You have taught my people.
Let me learn the lessons You have hidden in every leaf and rock.
I seek strength not to be greater than my brothers and sisters, but to fight my greatest enemy . . .
myself.
Make me always ready to come to You with clean hands and straight eyes.
So when life fades, as the fading sunset my spirit may come to You without shame. Amen.

**This Invocation used by the National Board of Directors of the Boy Scouts of America
submitted by Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary**

Almighty God, You have created this good world in which we find ourselves, help us so to live that our gratitude and thanksgiving may be self-evident daily. We invoke Your grace upon us with common purpose symbolized in our Rotary motto: They profit most who serve best! Grant us such visions of Your nature and the needs of our fellow human beings that we may give ourselves in service as did He who affirmed: "I came not to be served but to serve" ... So strengthen our bodies with this food and fellowship here at these tables that we may go forth to achieve our common goal of Service Above Self. Amen.

Carl Forshee, Albert Lea Rotary

Lauded by Your name, O my God! I entreat You by the fragrances of the Raiment of Your grace which at Your bidding and in conformity with Your desire were diffused throughout the entire creation, and by the Day-Star of Your will that has shone brightly, through the power of Your might and of Your sovereignty, above the horizon of Your mercy, to blot out from my heart all idle fancies and vain imaginings, that with all my affections I may turn unto You, Lord of all mankind!

I am Your servant. My God! I have laid hold on the handle of Your grace, and clung to the cord of Your tender mercy. Ordain for me the good things that are with You, and nourish me from the table of Your bounty and the heaven of Your favor.

You, in very truth, art the Lord of the worlds, and the God of all that are in heaven and all that are on earth.

Traz Akhavan, M.D., Alexandria Rotary

Great God, You have certainly been good to us. You have opened Your heart to us in love. May Your hand of mercy rest upon us and give us Your good gifts. Bless this food to our use, and our Rotary members in service to our community. We thank You for the visiting Rotarians and guests. May You lift their spirits and send them on their way with joy. Amen.

Reverend Paul A. Ranum, Alexandria Rotary

For life, for health, and for the privilege of joining in this spirit of Rotary fellowship, we are humbly thankful. Thank You for the food of which we are about to partake; bless it to our use and us to Your service. Amen.

Ed Usem, Austin Rotary

Almighty God, we remember You not often enough, but always gratefully. We remember You now, and lift to You our thanks for Your continuing love and care. As You are ever generous to us, O God, providing for the needs both of our bodies and our spirits, help us to be ever generous toward one another, serving one another in Your name. Amen.

Reverend Robert A. Morgan, Austin Rotary

Gracious God, as we reflect on the hope and renewal of this beautiful midwestern spring, the meal that we have shared together, the fellowship of this club and the opportunities it offers us to help others, let us add our voices to the words of the Psalmist who said, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" Amen.

Craig W. Johnson, Austin Rotary

O God of whom it was said long ago that You set the solitary into families, that You give good tidings to the afflicted, that You bind up the broken-hearted, that You proclaim liberty to the captives . . . we thank You for setting us into the family of Rotary, and for placing before all of us good opportunities for healing the afflicted, encouraging the broken-hearted, liberating those whose lives are limited unnecessarily. We thank You this day for our food, our fellowship, the vision and the inspiration being promised to us here. We thank You for the joy of serving You together as we work to make our towns, our cities and our world all places where good life can flourish in peace and in mutual understanding. By whatever name each of us calls You, gather our Invocations all together and use them to glorify Yourself and to enrich our spirits. Amen.

Reverend Robert A. Morgan, Austin Rotary

I am growing older.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains — love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint . . . some of them are so hard to live with . . . but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And give me grace, O Lord, to tell them so! Amen.

(this Invocation was originally taken from the Land O'Lakes Mirror January 1987)

I.J. Holton, Austin Rotary

Almighty God, bless us that we might strengthen our hearts and minds, to retain the ideals of Rotary and practice them at all times. Help us bolster our spirits through friendship with acquaintances both old and new, and constantly search for the chance to invite new friends to join with us, too. Let us hold our ethical standards high in our lives, in our homes, in our work; and ever strive to advance goodwill, in our land and all over the earth. Give us strength to serve wherever we're asked, in whatever capacity, and work like the burden lay solely with us, regardless what the cause may be. And grant through our faith in our friends, in our clubs, and in You, that our efforts will help us better our lives, and through our lives, better Rotary. Amen.

Bruce Bergstrom, Austin Rotary

Bless this food to our use, and with the strength which it gives our bodies may our spirits be strengthened to do things for others who need our help. Amen.

George A. Haven, Chatfield Rotary

O Lord and Creator of us all, we humbly bow before You in supplication. We ask Your blessing on our homes and Your guidance to each one during the hours of this day.

Help us to realize Your nearness to us at this hour. May we realize Your reality and be conscious of the fact that You are not a God far off, but close and dear to each one of us. Give us this day, some work to do for others, some kindly words to speak, some helpful, unselfish deed to fulfill in Your Name.

Be with us each and every hour of this day. May we so live that Your will may be done and Your Kingdom established within our hearts. *Amen.*

R.R. Anderson, Sr., Belle Plaine Rotary

ON THIS DAY

On this day, Lord, help us to Mend a quarrel,
Search out a forgotten friend, Dismiss a suspicion and replace it with trust, Write a letter to someone who misses us, Encourage a Youth who has lost faith, Keep a promise, Forget an old grudge, Examine our demands on others and vow to reduce them, Fight for a principle, Express our gratitude, Overcome an old fear, Take a few minutes to appreciate the beauty of nature, Tell someone we love them. Tell them again, and again. Amen.

From Success Unlimited, Bruce Hutchins, Bloomington Rotary

We thank You for this opportunity of Rotary fellowship and service. We ask You to bless this food to our use ... us to Your service . . . and keep us ever mindful of the needs of others.

Walt Ellingson, Edina Rotary

We thank You, O Lord, for the provisions You have set before us this day. Make us be aware of each blessing, and help us to be faithful in giving thanks for them. Keep us alert to the needs of those within our sphere of influence, and willing to be of help. Give us compassion and charity, that we may be an example to humanity. Amen.

Fred Walton, Buffalo Rotary

ALMIGHTY GOD

We praise You for Your goodness to us and for the fact that Your mercy endureth forever. Make this day worthwhile, not only in our relation to society, but also for the promotion of Your Kingdom in this world. Bless this food to our good and may we ever be conscious of our responsibility in service to You forever. Amen.

Dr. F.O. Nelson, Buffalo Rotary

Most gracious God, the gifts You have bestowed upon us are more than we could ask for. We thank You for the freedom of fellowship available in this room; we thank You for the food available to nourish our physical needs. We can only pray we would have the strength to direct our talents in Your service. Help us to keep our minds centered on Your will that we may forget our own selfish desires. Amen.

Jerry G. Hawkins, Chatfield Rotary

Today as we meet in Rotary fellowship, we cannot help but be reminded of our innumerable blessings, blessings which we all too often take for granted when we do so little to deserve them.

We should be especially thankful for living in this great land; for the many opportunities available to each of us, among them being privileged to belong to a Rotary Club.

Bless us to Your service and this food as strength for our bodies.

Walt. W. Welchlin, Fairmont Rotary

Dear Lord, whose mercies are new every day, we entreat You on behalf of each one present at this gathering. We are thankful for the many friendships that have been established through a participation in Rotary, and for the fellowship of this hour. We pray that truly our aim might be to serve others and that our motto, Service Above Self, might be a guiding factor in the accomplishing of this goal. When we realize the unnumbered multitudes of people who are down-trodden, troubled, discouraged and forsaken, we should be more thankful than ever that we are permitted to have the many blessings received. As we are about to partake of the food set before us, may we express our thanks for the provisions made for our physical needs. May the food be for the strengthening of our bodies and we, in turn, be strengthened for greater service to humanity. May the peace of God which passes all understanding abide with each of us. Amen.

Reverend Alrik A. Blomquist, Cokato Rotary

O God, for the freedom of thought and peace, the love of friends and family, and the opportunity for service through our Rotary Fellowship, we give You thanks. Bless this food for our use and accept our gratitude for Your great gifts. Amen.

Reverend Gordon Patterson, Fairmont Rotary

O Lord, keep us ever grateful for Your gifts of life, love, and service and guide us toward the fulfillment of Your will. Bless our fellowship and this food that through them we might honor You more and serve society with greater conviction and affection. Amen.

Reverend Gordon Patterson, Fairmont Rotary

We come here together that we might be of greater service to our community. Keep us open so we may listen, share and affirm. Bless this time, food and fellowship together that we might go forth resolved to put Service Above Self. Amen.

E. Richard Engstrom, Jr., Fairmont Rotary

Our Almighty God, we thank You for the privilege in meeting in Rotary Fellowship. We thank You for the privilege of living in this wonderful community. Bless this food to our use. Amen.

Loren Aistrope, Fairmont Rotary

Lord, here we are from office, hospital, shop, bank, stores and school. Lord, thank You for the minds of all; thank You even more for those who use their minds. Lord, guide me to help all to better understand the mind You have given us to use, while we continue in search for better ways to use and understand the mind You have provided each of us. Amen.

Bill Johnson, Waco, Texas Rotary, submitted by R. Wayne Provart, Fridley

Some have meat and cannot eat, Some can eat and have no meat, We can eat and we have meat, For this we thank You. Amen.

A delightful paraphrase of Bobby Burns' Scottish Table Invocation submitted by Reverend W.R. Fegan, Gaylord Rotary

God, we acknowledge that we are no longer green behind the ears, or innocent tender leaves in the woods of life.

Nonetheless, as long as we still take in sunlight and partake in the life sharing process, give us the grace to flutter faithfully in the winds of change, so that the whole network of family and community may be strengthened through us.

Keep us from becoming disconnected, dried out, crisp and brittle. Keep us fit for all seasons. Amen.

Reverend James Lauer, Glencoe Rotary

O God, another day has been given to us, and we acknowledge Your presence in it. We are grateful for the happy privileges this day has brought, for the opportunities of joy and service which may have been given us. As Rotarians, we pause to remember that You are important to us and our world. Grant now, as we complete this day, to seek consciously to do Your will and help us to fulfill the ideals and responsibilities You have given Rotarians the world over. To You we pray, Amen.

Reverend Lasse J. Stohl, Hopkins Rotary

For food and strength and every good, we give You thanks, O God. For friends and life and tasks to do, we give You praise, O God. Bless our fellowship here today, and help us as Rotarians everywhere to show ourselves understanding of each other, and ever eager to encourage peace and tranquility and goodwill among all people. Amen.

Reverend Lasse J. Stohl, Hopkins Rotary

Almighty God . . . We come before You this day as a service organization. Help us to be servants to society and to serve all who live in this community. Help us to be willing to serve our fellow human beings even though it may cause us some suffering. We ask You to guide and direct our club to go on and do a job that will be well pleasing to You and meet the various needs that arise in our community so that Your name would be glorified. Amen.

Reverend Harvey C. Junker, Glenwood Rotary

Lord, We ask that You give us the ability to remember the "Right" things about our friends; we recognize that all too often we remember the two "Wrong" items and push aside and/or take for granted the ninety-eight qualities of the "good life" as shown to us by our fellow workers, our fellow Rotarians and society. We further thank You for allowing us to share fellowship with those present with us here today. Amen.

Chaplain John Graff, Janesville Rotary

Let us pray that strength and courage be abundantly given to all who work for the world of reason and understanding, that the good that lies in every heart may day by day be magnified; that all will come to see more clearly not that which divides us, but that which unites; and that each hour may bring us closer to a final victory, not of nation over nation, but each person over his or her own evils and weaknesses; that the true spirit of this meeting ... its joy, its beauty, its hope . . . and above all, its abiding faith . . . may live among us; that the blessing of peace be ours . . . the peace to build and grow, to live in harmony and sympathy with others, and to plan for the future with confidence. Amen.

W.G. Heiting, Hudson Rotary

God, we thank You for the gift of Your presence which brings meaning to our lives and lifts us beyond selfish and momentary goals. Let our Rotary fellowship reflect genuine respect and concern for one another. May our Club reach out to be of real service to the many others whom You love. Give grace to those who lead us and grant us all peace. Amen.

Reverend Charles O. Dundas, Le Sueur Rotary

Oh God! Your love is manifested to us in innumerable ways, and yet we are unwilling to recognize either You or Your gifts. Help us to find those areas in which we can honorably reciprocate Your love by doing services and deeds for others, which will bring us to a better awareness of why You have permitted us to live in this critical time in history. Help us also to acknowledge Your presence, thus making what we do more meaningful to Your Kingdom Building program and making us more responsive to Your call. Amen.

Ed Meierbachtol, Past District Governor, Le Sueur Rotary

Almighty God, we thank You for this opportunity to gather together with fellow Rotarians. We thank You for the food which has been prepared for us today, knowing that millions of people around the world go hungry each day. We ask You to bless these people, give them strength and courage to overcome their need, and somehow, we would hope that these hungry mouths could be fed, so that no one goes hungry. We also ask You for peace in the world, and for better understanding between, not only people of different nations, but between people in our own communities. Amen.

Reverend Charles O. Dundas, Le Sueur Rotary

Almighty God! We pause in the midst of our daily confusion to acknowledge Your eternal love for all. Truly You are our refuge and strength, and we need Your forgiving and compassionate love every moment. Teach us Your plan for our lives. Give us the strength to carry the earthly loads that we all too often take upon ourselves, and give us the wisdom to use them to lift the burdens of the oppressed and make us ever mindful of the needs of Your people everywhere. Amen.

Ed Meierbachtol, Past District Governor, Le Sueur Rotary

God, who has given us all our senses: Help us

To hear the plea of our neighbors in need;

To see the loneliness which haunts them;

To smell the stench of poverty as well as the perfume of success;

To savor the cup of friendship, even at our expense;

To feel compassion for those You have instructed;

To touch my brothers and sisters with nothing less than love and compassion. Amen.

Arlen J. Foss, Madelia Rotary

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, and
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, 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 giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

This Invocation of Francis of Assisi, submitted by A.J. Foss, Madelia Rotary

Eternal and Everlasting God, we who are committed to Service Above Self stand with bowed heads, asking Your grace for the benefit of our great nation with all its problems. For our beloved and beautiful homeland. For Rotary, which does so much for our members and for humanity. Bless this food to our use and us to Your service now and forever. Amen.

Orris M. Johnson, Mankato Rotary

Almighty God
In whose vast creation we are a part
In whose service we find our greatest life,
By Your presence enrich our fellowship this day.
By Your inspiration increase our desire for greater usefulness to our community.
May Service Above Self be a motive, not a maxim, at the heart of all our work and worship,
And may gratitude for all Your mercies grace our lives and make us humbler but stronger people. Amen.

Reverend C. John Bates, Minneapolis Rotary

O Lord: In the words of the Psalmist, You have made us but little lower than the angels. The teachings of prophets and sages have illumined these words, so that we might know that our highest destiny is to live a life of service . . . service to the ideals of our faith, service to the welfare of our fellow beings.

Strengthen us, O Lord, to remain true to our destiny. Remove from our hearts the cynicism and bitterness which are created by the trials of life. May all who reach out to us for help, do so assured that because of our belief, we shall provide for them in any necessary way. Fortify us in our resolve to keep bright in our lives the light of righteousness and justice so that we may be of greater service to society. Amen.

Rabbi Herbert S. Rutman, Minneapolis Rotary

Almighty God, we confess that our conversation with You is often terse, telegram-like. We send messages of ten words or less, except when we manage to get off a longer night letter.

So today we ask for patience to listen for Your voice, for a desire to know Your will, for the sense to expose our souls to Your truth.

Then our relationship to You will be more of worth than of words. In Your name, Amen.

Dr. Paul H.A. Noren, Minneapolis Rotary

Almighty God, we bow humbly before You to render our praises for all Your loving kindness and tender mercy towards us. All that we have and are and hope, we owe to Your goodness. We humbly ask You to forgive us our transgressions and help us to be worthy of Your forgiveness. Help us to walk before You blameless, resisting every temptation, and to faithfully perform every duty which descends upon us. We ask Your help to perform our duties in such a way that it will bring credit to You and us as Rotarians. Bless our absent loved ones as You determine they have need. Grant them and us abundant grace, and guidance that we may all be strengthened to be and to do as You would have us perform. Amen.

Lee G. Wahlberg, New Prague Rotary

Dear Lord, give us a good purpose in life . . . one we can be proud of and proud to have reported on. Let us not beat our head bloody and souls ragged seeking the impossible ... or let us not show weakness by giving up too soon . . . rather, let us say now and again, "Your will be done." Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

O God, You accept us as we are. Help us to accept ourselves. May we stand tall on our own worth, not appear tall by standing upon others. May we not try to be beautiful by smearing mud in others' faces, or more righteous by shaming another's name. Examine our criticism, Lord, let it be used to build up, not to break down ... perhaps to shake, but never to shatter. Forgive our stooping and elevate our minds to greatness. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

Almighty God,
We thank You for all our blessings, for our lives, our families, our dear ones and our friends. We thank You for the opportunity for service which You have given us and for the promise our efforts hold.

Help us to live by our respective faiths. Where there is hatred, may we bring love Where there is despair, may we bring hope Where there is darkness, may we bring light Where there is discord, may we bring peace.

That the ideals of Rotary may be assured and Your name glorified. Amen.

Arthur C. Melamed, St. Louis Park Rotary

We gather about these tables in Rotary Fellowship, expressing thanks for the food that has been prepared to supply our physical needs and for inspiration that sends us forth in a ministry of "Service Above Self".

At all times we would live with truth and fairness uppermost in our minds so that those who are touched by us may know the benefits that we have come to know as builders of goodwill and closer friendships. Amen.

Reverend Bennett G. Brudevold, St. Louis Park Rotary

Almighty God, who has set a restlessness in our hearts, and made us all seekers after that which we can never fully find, forbid us to be satisfied with what we make of life. Draw us from base content, and set our eyes on far-off goals. Keep us at tasks too hard for us, that we may be driven to You for strength. Deliver us from fretfulness and self pity; make us sure of the goal we cannot see, and of the hidden good in the world. Open our eyes to simple beauty all around us, and our hearts to the loveliness hidden from us because we do not try enough to understand. Save us from ourselves, and show us a vision of a world made new. May Your spirit of peace and illumination so enlighten our minds that all life shall glow with new meaning and purpose. Amen.

A favorite Invocation of Carroll Hurd, Past District Governor, St. Louis Park Rotary

For abundance beyond our deserving; for blessings beyond our asking; for a rich heritage of enterprise and freedom we are humbly thankful. Give us Your blessing in understanding Your gifts and their use. Amen.

Leonard Harkness, St. Paul Rotary

Almighty God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, bless our assembling together in fellowship representative of innumerable vocations and professions. The food to be set before us is a gift from You though prepared for our physical sustenance. May we be strengthened in body to meet the test as Rotarians in service to others. Amen.

Reverend Walter F. Pearson, St. Peter Rotary

This is the day which the Lord has made, and in it we rejoice. The beauty of the earth we see round about us is of Your Creation. The "good earth" is every citizen's responsibility to care for and nurture. It is the only place on which our body can rest and be nurtured to be strengthened for service to the world. We ask that You would bless our meeting today, and that it prove to be a meaningful experience for all in our Rotary Club. For food for our body this hour we give You our thanks. Amen.

Reverend Walter F. Pearson, St. Peter Rotary

Almighty God, under whose care we are living with certainty and by whose Service we have eternal hope, we praise You, and wish to underscore our praise with service to You and to all people. Help us to see the many opportunities we have in the foster homes for our children, the emotionally disturbed and confused in the state schools, the troubled on our streets. May we respond to these needs, and may our response flow from a deep love to You who so regularly gives us this pleasant hour of fellowship, luncheon and sharing with one another. Amen.

Pastor G.B. Eschenbacher, Sauk Centre Rotary

Almighty God, accept our humble thanks for the opportunity of Service Above Self. We ask for guidance that in performing our service it will, in some way, strengthen the ties of fellowship and peace throughout the world. Amen.

Phil R. Lutzi, Sr., North Mankato Rotary

Almighty God, we are thankful for the privilege we have of meeting today as Rotarians. We are aware of the many who have been faithful to the motto of Service Above Self. We realize the privilege and honor which we have of being joined together in a worldwide fellowship devoted to the ideal of service. Through Your constant help may we be able, in the days ahead, to make ever greater contributions to world understanding through our association in Rotary. Help us always realize that truly, "They profit most who serve best". Amen.

Warren Schultz, Past District Governor Richfield Rotary

When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, not loss; good, not evil; success, and not failure, in order that I shall not regret the price that I have paid for it.

Taken from the cornerstone of a girls' school in the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming.

O. Walter Johnson, Past District Governor, Stillwater Rotary

When problems come our way, help us to find solutions; in times of strife, let us make peace; in times of doubt, may we give assurance; in times of sorrow, let us give comfort! In time of need, let us show love to all people as YOU have shown love to us. Amen.

Gerry Bode, Wayzata Rotary

O God, who knows our downswings and our uprisings and understands our thoughts afar, Help us in Your holy keeping and guide our footsteps that we may not wander from Your truths into the paths of error. Keep us ever mindful of Rotary's Motto, "Service Above Self", so that by thought and action we may deserve the favor and carry on with joy and enthusiasm Your desire to have us better serve the people of our community.

James E. Keill, Winona Rotary

Dear God, we thank You for another day of fellowship with our fellow Rotarians. We thank You for the opportunity to make a difference throughout the world through the programs of The Rotary Foundation that promote world understanding and goodwill.

May each of us truly make a difference in our workplaces and in our communities as we demonstrate in our lives the values of Rotary.

Jerry Showalter, Past District Governor Roseville Rotary

Almighty God, as we gather today in celebration, may we give You humble thanks for enriching our lives by the ever-widening circles of friendship. May we always remember Your generosity. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful for the blessings You have bestowed on us. Save us from pride and selfish use of Your gifts. Give us strength of purpose and concern for others, that we may create peace in our work places, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. We humbly pray, Amen.

Mary Ann O'Brien, Stillwater Rotary

Adapted from Psalm 148

Blessed are You, God of all creation. Your sustaining spirit and love animates the entire universe. In gratitude, we praise Your life-giving energy and presence.

Jane Stillman, Stillwater Sunrise Rotary

Dear God, we know we cannot merely pray to You to end despair, for You have already given us the power to provide hope, if we would only use our powers justly.

We know we cannot merely pray to You to end wars, for we know that You have given us the means to find pathways to peace . . . within ourselves and with our neighbors.

We know we cannot merely pray to You to end starvation, for You have given us the resources to feed the world if we would only use all resources wisely.

We know we cannot merely pray to You to root out prejudice, for You have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people if we would only use our eyes rightly.

Therefore, we pray to You instead, Oh God, for strength, determination and willpower to do, instead of just to pray, to become instead of merely to wish.

Now as we leave this place together, please help each of us to recognize we have the power to provide hope, find peace, use resources wisely, and see the good in all people. Amen.

John Traver, St. Paul Rotary

MEALTIME INVOCATIONS

sung to the tune of Long Metre 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.

Howard Luhmann (used weekly at Shakopee)

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; and the patience of those who serve it. May we enjoy the fellowship 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, And when we leave may we have fed on fellowship 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

We have gathered in Your name, and 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 fellowship 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 food to us and us to a deeper commitment to Your service.

Ron Phillippo, St. Paul 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 this fellowship 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 which You give. Strengthen our bodies and our souls, and let us for Your 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 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 shut 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

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 which we are to be served. As we partake of this meal, help us to be mindful of those less fortunate than we.

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

Our God in heaven above,
We ask You to look down upon us,
And grant us Your love, Your mercy, 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 the food that was placed before us.
Amen.

Woodbury A. Palmen, Wabasha Rotary

Give us, O God, the vision which 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)

SPECIAL, HOLIDAY AND SEASONAL INVOCATIONS

1995 ANNUAL INDIANHEAD COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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.

Of 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 sharings 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

INVOCATION AS NEW ROTARY YEAR BEGINS

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.

Pastor Clifford J. Swanson, Northfield Rotary

NEW 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

MOTHER'S DAY OR FAMILY FESTIVAL

Almighty God, we offer this day our thanks for the great bounty bestowed upon us in the form of our families, guide and preserve our homes. Shelter and comfort our children. Aid and direct our family leisure, that we might employ this gift to Your great glory. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

FAMILY WEEK OR MOTHER'S DAY

O God of the family, strengthen our ties with You and one another, sanctify the family bond of love and understanding that this basic unit of our society might be strong and enduring, bind us together in unity of heart, mind and purpose. Help us, that our love for You will be reflected in all our relationships with those whom we serve upon this earth. Increase our appreciation of the bond of marriage and the family, that we may see these institutions as the fulfillment of true fidelity and noble living. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Almighty God we thank You for Your many goodnesses 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 this food and our fellowship. Amen.

Harold E. Anderson, Alexandria Rotary

SUMMER

O God, for summer's wonder that turns to dawn's glory from midnight thunder, we sing praise to You today!
For purple lilacs on our way for July sky blue reminding us of You,
For beckoning trails of summer fun when winter's labor is done,
For fishing trips with friends that help us to unbend
And for all the beauty of days like these that shows Your hand upon the land, We bless You,
Lord.
And for our families here we bless You too!
And for the food which, without the friendship, could not sustain us.
Thank You, God! Amen.

Reverend Arthur A. Rouner, Edina Rotary

FALL

Almighty God, we thank You for this beautiful season when the greens of summer gloriously turn into the reds and golds and purples of Fall, truly we see Your handiwork in all things. 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 Your own. 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 us all. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

HARVEST INVOCATION

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 blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are.

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 You;

For funny friends, who are silly as brussels sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem 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 You throughout the winter;

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 thereafter;

For all these we give thanks.

**Reverend Max Coats, First Universalist Society, New York
submitted by Phil Oswald, St. Paul Rotary**

FARM-CITY PRAYER

Oh Lord, Our Lord, Creator of all that's good. We come to You with many thoughts, as You have said we should.

We've planned a celebration, with the farmers who till the soil, and also for the city folks, who in their own jobs toil.

We've joined them all together, to learn each other's ways, that they might realize the challenges that we have today.

We've asked the city dwellers to join us on the farm, so they may learn the way of life of farming without harm.

We ask Your loving kindness on those who take a part, we want them to know what happens here and how we got our start.

We pray for You to open their eyes, that they might see new things, and open their ears that they will hear the sounds that earth brings.

We ask for You to guide the farmers in how to tell their story, instill in the hearts of city folks, that earthly part of Your Glory.

Join us together in one accord, that we can accomplish much, speak to us in Your loving way, with Your blessed crowning touch.

Oh Lord, Our Lord, what a great day this will be. A special day together, farm and city folks are we.

Amen.

written by Thelma Grovatt, Tabernacle, New Jersey,

submitted by Ed Frederick, Past District Governor Waseca Rotary

ALL HARVEST

Almighty God, In this season of the year when we harvest and lay in store things to feed and cloth our bodies during the long, cold winter, help us also to be mindful that we may glean spiritual food and clothing for the bleak and dismal days that also accost us.

We thank You for health of body and mind. May we be bold to ask Your assistance in times of need, not by merit, but by the generosity of Your being. Amen.

Reverend James Lauer, Glencoe 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 being blessed beyond one's 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 on the table which is ours to enjoy. In Your name we rejoice. Amen.

Reverend Walter F. Pearson, St. Peter Rotary

THANKSGIVING

Our God, we thank You for Your many goodnesses to us. We thank You for the purity of our landscape and the knowledge that it is within Your power to purify our lives if we lay them before You.

We thank You for the help You gave that Pilgrim band to whom we owe our ideals of freedom. We thank You for the will and the strength to preserve that freedom which we are able to enjoy.

Harold E. Anderson, Alexandria Rotary

HARVEST

Dear God, it's time to celebrate the harvest. Though most of our food comes in cans or frozen packages and we participate very little in the turning of the spade, we are aware of the mystery of the seed and the majesty of the plant, which then dies that we might live. As we sit around our tables, our feasts meager or manifold, may we pass the bread in remembrance, knowing also that our greatest thanks is expressed in sharing. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

IN THE 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 a classification. So, in most of life, what we have has come as a gift from others. In our world we are laced together with inter-relationships. 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 these beautiful and bountiful tables. Amen.

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

LABOR DAY

O God, who art 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 botched 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

ON A FOGGY AUTUMN MORNING

Mysterious God—Who comes out of the misty morning of a day like this 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 this autumn day, with all its flaming 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

LOCAL CLUB SPECIAL OCCASION

We pause in the daily flow of life to pay special tribute this hour and 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

SCHOOL

Once again, great teacher of all humanity, we commend to Your care, our boys and girls in their new year of school. We thank You for our schools and teachers, and learning and knowledge. Above all, may this school year prove to be a significant experience in moral and spiritual growth of the children we love and again commit to Your care. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

HONORING TEACHERS

Almighty God, we pray for Your blessings to be bestowed upon those who spend their lives teaching our children. Grant them strength and wisdom to carry through on their tasks, courage to face rebellion and revolution with calm minds, courage to take a firm stand and steadfast devotion to do Your will. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

COLLEGES

Almighty God in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, grant Your blessing upon all colleges and universities. Keep alive in them a love of learning; save students and teachers from narrow judgments and futile contention; cultivate in them a loyalty to truth and courage to face the unknown and untried. May their minds be clean, their hearts pure, and their faith unwavering. So may the light of truth shine with growing brightness over the earth, bringing stability and integrity to our time. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

UNITED FUND DAY

O God, forgive us our selfishness in a world where people starve for food. Forgive us our self-centeredness in a world where many starve for love. Bless every agent and agency of human mercy and relief. Give us strength and commitment to match all the demands made upon us. Give us clean hands and pure hearts to ascend Your Holy hill. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

YOUTH EMPHASIS WEEK OR MEETING

Almighty God, we thank You for our youth, for their searching inquiry, their sincerity. We thank You for those willing to share with them, and ask Your continued guidance that all may learn to work together and grow in understanding. Help us to accomplish the work You have given us to do. Amen.

Reverend W. Robert Fegan, Gaylord Rotary

YOUTH EMPHASIS MEETING

Almighty God, may the faith of our youth inspire us to greater trust in You. Gird our children with strength, clothe them with honor and grant them keen vision as they venture toward adulthood. Help them to realize spiritual values and so discern life's true meaning and direction. Help them to move undaunted and unafraid into adulthood. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

FOR ILL ROTARIANS

O great physician, we come to plead for friends who are critically ill, whose pain and suffering are immeasurable, whose sickness has been prolonged, and who will return to health only through a manifestation of Your power. We ask that the functioning of divine laws, now beyond our understanding, will bring healing to those so dear, and forever touch them and make them whole again. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

Almighty God who has shown us how to meet both triumph and disaster, guide us now in the daily paths our feet must follow. Sustain those who walk in the valley of the shadow of death and find it lonesome. Accompany those who rejoice in high achievement, preparing them for that moment when they find that success also has its problems, so with Your help we may live in faithfulness, patience and integrity. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

Almighty God, we stand before Your Throne of Grace this day in remembrance of _____ whom we all dearly miss. May (his/her) contribution of service on behalf of our local Rotary Club and Rotary International at large, continue to experience the influence of this dedicated life to others. This we ask in the name of the Master. Amen.

Reverend Walter F. Pearson, St. Peter Rotary

FOR PROGRAM ON HEALTH

O great physician, lend Your divine wisdom to all who give themselves to the healing arts ... as the dew of the evening brings refreshment to every living thing, so let Your spirit hover over all who minister to the needs of our bodies. May each nurse and physician know Your ways, and work and walk therein. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

RECOGNITION OF HANDICAPPED

Almighty God, help us to understand that few of us have a chance to live our lives on the basis of first choice. We must live them upon the basis of our second and third choices. We thank You for those among us who have shown us how to render significant service with the leftovers of a broken plan. We are still encouraged by the Spirit which prompted the ancient prophet to declare:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
Because He has anointed me,
He has sent me to convey good news to the poor,
To proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed. (Isaiah 58:6)

And now for the gift of friendship and food we offer our thanks.

Reverend Paul W. Neal, St. Paul Rotary

DRUG ADDICTS, ALCOHOLICS, WHERE LACK OF DISCIPLINE REIGNS

O God, we pray for those who have become victims of dangerous habits, habits which began as security blankets but have become suffocating passions. May they see their need of divine counsel and call for help. Guide those who minister to them and those who search for solutions. We ask in Your name to share the weight of our burdens. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

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.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

ROTARY INTROSPECTION DAY - CLUB BUSINESS DAY

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 that our conduct might be exemplary when dealing with 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

SUMMER

O Lord, in the beauty of this summer day we find assurance that beyond 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 that inner joy and gladness which we feel on such a day, we know that we are Your children, endowed with goodness and called to higher things. Strengthen within us all noble resolutions that we may find eager satisfaction in serving and helping and lifting. It is Your will that all people should be bound together in selfless love. Grant that we may seek to do Your will.

On this summer day we ask Your special blessing on Rotary, that it may continue to build harmony and create justice and promote peacefulness among the peoples 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 District Governor and our simple table fellowship this day. Amen.

Stanley Borden, Roseville Rotary

FOR INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

Thank You, God for bringing us together today at this wonderful event of world fellowship and goodwill. We ask for a special blessing on these international guests to our club. We thank You for the leadership of the _____ Rotary Club and those that have organized this program. Thank You for providing this food representing nations of the world to nourish our bodies so we may go forward in service.

Austin Rotary Club's 75th Anniversary Dinner Invocation December 12, 1994

CHRISTMAS

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 this food, fellowship and reflection on our past. . . and energized to convey Your perpetual light. . . forward into the future. In Your holy name, Amen.

Craig W. Johnson, Austin Rotary

PERSONAL INVOCATIONS

Almighty God, we know that happiness can be many things, a warm blanket, a pat on the back, a whisper of encouragement, being with a loved one, or a crisp cold night by the fire. We know that "hell" can be just beyond the closed door of our lives. We know that happiness is also a fragile state of mind holding fast to the sheer joy of living another day and sleeping another night, and it readies us for the opening door that our next step will be into a new world. We ask that You go with us on our journey. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

Almighty God, this is the beginning of a new day. You have given us this day to use as we will. We can waste it or use it for good. But what we do today is important because we are exchanging a day of our lives for it! When tomorrow comes, today will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that we bartered for in return. We want it to be gain, and not a loss, good and not evil; success, and not failure, in order that we will not regret the price we have paid for our exchange. Teach us to be capable of asking for mercy and showing our humility by thought, word and deed. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

God, amid the pressing demands and cares of the lives we live, may we not lose sight of the things that are eternal. When the way is not clear, light for us the candle of hope that we may not falter or fall. Give us a sense of purpose and meaning by which we may guide our spirits and direct our energies and grant us peace. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

Almighty God, have we touched anyone today? We don't mean pinched or hit or pushed or poked, we remember those times too well. How many people around us have we reached out to embrace, or encourage with a loving pat? Or has the desire ... no ... the passion to be uninvolved kept us at arm's length, holed up in our own private cave? Help us to touch, even with words carefully chosen, to reach out instead of keep out. Help us so we can reach out to You so You might touch us. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

Almighty God, whose will is our health, save us from the leukemia of non-commitment. Let not the red blood of our love run white with indifference, lest our families drift haphazardly to their doom. Let not the red blood of our economic life run white with the attempt to get something for nothing, lest our society become a terminal case. Let not the red blood of our democracy run white with a careless unconcern for injustice or corruption, lest tyranny become our master. Let not the red blood of religious conviction run white with lip service, lest we be unfaithful to Your followers. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

O God, who is always near us but never nearer than when we seek guidance, bestow upon us strength for our burdens, wisdom for our responsibilities and insight to meet the demands of this day. Let us make no plan for this day in which we cannot ask Your blessing, or to act in a way that would make it impossible for us to be loyal to Your purpose and calling.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

"What's the world coming to?" is the cry of every generation. Ours is no exception! We have our pessimists and our moments of pessimism, Geologists, economists, and evangelists warn us of impending doom. Thank You for those who also implant hope. Help us to be messengers of Your good news, which gives optimism and direction to a questioning world. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

Help us, O God, to understand the meaning of freedom. In our time we so easily confuse it with getting our way, doing as we please, or not caring. This we confess is cheap freedom. It is not that which becomes us as human beings nor certainly as Your children. Create in us a sense of responsible freedom, willingness to accept the conditions of constructive living. By the grace which is from beyond, enable us to discipline ourselves to the laws of our nature, by which alone we come to true freedom. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

Almighty God, as we sail through life, keep the tides of life in our favor. May the breeze carrying Your word fill our sails . . . may the cool mist of the morn be on our lips . . . the radiance of the sun on our faces . . . the permanence of the stars guide us . . . and in the sunset of our lives, return us to safe harbor and a restful sleep. Amen.

Roland D. Wilsey, Past District Governor, Roseville Rotary

Dear God, Our deeds can sanctify life, and our deeds can desecrate life. Blessings and curses have been set before us. We must constantly choose good or evil. May our deeds reflect Your compassion and justice. May we each resist evil by our deeds and may we be renewed with resolve to live our lives as You would have us. Amen.

Donna Robbins, Austin Rotary

FOUR WAY TEST (by Stan Borden, Roseville Rotary)

Is It The Truth?

O God of Wisdom, Light & Truth, help us to renew our dedication to Truth in our personal and business lives. We trust You in all things because we know You do not change and vacillate. We can count on You. The whole universe is undergirded by Your Truth, the immutable laws of nature are the same yesterday, today and forever. And the moral laws which give stability to human society are not dependent upon our wish or whim. O God, we would honor You this day by respecting Truth wherever it is found; by speaking Truth with integrity; and by practicing Truth in all dealings. Enrich our fellowship in Rotary as we share our time together today. Bless this food to our use and us in Your service. 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 which 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 this food and time we spend together as Rotarians, and to You be the glory. Amen.

Will It Build Goodwill & 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 own 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. Bless the food we eat today and our friendly conversation around these tables. Amen.

Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?

O God who has compassion and concern for all Your 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, may we never permit selfishness and greed to control our affairs. Bless us as we break bread together and may joy and peace be among us. Amen.

FOUR WAY TEST

Oh 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

THE COVENTRY INVOCATION OF RECONCILIATION

For the hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class, Almighty God, forgive us.

For the covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own, Almighty God, forgive us.

For the greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth, Almighty God, forgive us.

For our envy of the welfare and happiness of others, forgive us.

For our indifference to the plight of the homeless and the refugee, forgive us.

For the lust which dishonors the bodies of men, women, and children, forgive us.

For the pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in our Creator, forgive us.

Help us to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as You forgive us.

from Coventry, England, a city that was heavily damaged by German bombing in WWII

John Traver, St. Paul Rotary