



Vittoria, 01 febbraio 2019

Dear friends and members in Rotary,

February is an important month for Rotary, in fact on 23rd we celebrate the 114th year since the birth of our organization which, as you know, took place in Chicago in 1905. Once more, this year the clubs are called upon to hold events to make Rotary known by those who ignore its history, its work and achievements. We have always spoken about Rotary to Rotarians, it is time to make Rotary known to non-Rotarians. I exhort every club, therefore, to make Rotary known within your communities. People must know what Rotary and the Rotary Foundation do. Make your activities, in favour of the community and in favour of the less fortunate, known.

February is dedicated by Rotary to Peace and to the prevention and resolution of conflict, a theme very dear to our founder Paul Harris to whom Rotary was *'a microcosm of Peace, a model which all nations ought to follow'*. Peace is the Rotary's aim so as to build a world that goes beyond war. Rotary has always been a maker of Peace. Suffice it to say that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations in 1948 was based on the guidelines of the resolution adopted by the Rotary International Convention of 1940 in Havana, Cuba. One of the areas of intervention is Rotary's commitment to peace, the prevention and the resolution of conflicts. Hence, the Rotary Peace centres, the Youth Exchanges, the Scholarships and the exchange of hospitality among members of different countries.

The dictionary defines the word 'peace' as follows: a condition of normality in relationships, the absence of war and conflict within a population, within a State, of organised groups, ethnic, social, religious, etc, with other peoples, other states other groups (this is a translation of the definition given in the Vocabolario Treccani).

At our latitude one would think that we live in a peaceful world, but it is not so. In Africa, Europe, Asia and The Americas there are no less than 61 war hotbeds, in Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Sudan, Chechenia, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Colombia, Mexico and many more.

Rotary faces this situation by being a peacemaker by means of its Peace Centres whose mission is the promotion of Peace in the world through academic training. Since 2002, one

thousand Rotary Peace Fellows hold leadership positions in the world related to the creation of peace among nations.

However, conflict does not only exist among nations, states or within these states or peoples. Conflict, seen as disputes that may have negative effects within the communities or social groups, exists also within some of our clubs. Rotarian Dwight Eisenhower the great American general defined Rotary as, 'the largest peace regiment in the world'! So, each one of us should consider himself a soldier in this army and within our clubs.

Yours in Rotary,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. H. a.' with a stylized flourish above the letters.