



***So then, you will know them by their fruits.***

***Gospel of Matthew (Chapter 7)***

Suddenly, another calendar year came to an end and we halved our year, the Rotary one. I sincerely hope that for most of you the past year will remain in your memory with only positive memories, and that those who have experienced trials and misfortunes will find the strength to move forward with positivism and a cheerful view of the world, to find new paths to prosperity and progress. The Japanese say, "When there is no way out, there are at least three."

Everyone knows that the end of the year is a time for balance, but also a time for new plans and new hopes. But what is hope if it was not born as a result of meaningful positively orientated work and purposeful efforts for that.

Have we thought about how much time we are devoted to our professional activities? What part of the paths we walk and continue to walk are a consequence of our meetings caused by our professional activities? How many of us have found our spouses and best friends thanks to a professional meeting? The answer is infinitely many.

Have we thought about how the opinion of those around us about us is formed? What part of this opinion is due to our professional knowledge, skills and performances? How do we form our own opinion of those around us? Beautiful and elegant people with stylish clothes, uttering enchanting phrases and promises, with strong and influential self-expression all too often form our opinion of a person, but undoubtedly what builds our overall image of him are his deeds and what he leaves behind.

Undoubtedly, our professional performances are the main, essential component of our overall 'self,' and it is no coincidence that Rotary attaches so much importance to our professional service, and the theme for each January (beginning of the calendar year) is "Professional Service."

Have we ever wondered why Rotary has created a classifier of occupations?

Why are we looking for young, distinguished, proven professionals and leaders in their professions as our members? Why, when we invite such people to our clubs, do they turn from strangers into our closest friends and people we can count on unreservedly?

Have we ever wondered why Rotary has a large, proven in real conditions expertise? Why do we meet so many selfless serving friends?

So many 'whys,' with such a seemingly simple answer.

Because our friends with heart and love perform their favorite professional duties.

Because they pass on this attitude as a realized duty in their families and thus raise their children.

Because every single day they demonstrate professionalism and attitude to work in their families and at work.

Because in this way they educate others without words, even though they often sound like Don Quixote.

Because in this way they change the physical and spiritual environment around us for the better.

Friends, thank you from the bottom of my heart that during the numerous meetings and events with you I recognized so many inspired, real people and professionals whose mission is to change the world around us for the better!

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