

INVESTITURE CEREMONY & DINNER

ROTARY CLUB OF DOMINICA

June 29, 2019

PINNING OF THE NEW PRESIDENT: RTN. LIMA JERVIER

THEME: "ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD"

PROTOCOL

Your Excellency, Charles Savarin, President of the Commonwealth of Dominica and Mrs. Savarin

Assistant Governor PHF Sammy Wyke and Mrs. Wyke

PHF Cecil Shillingford, Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Dominica

Miss Lima Jervier, President of the Rotary Club of Dominica

Board of Directors and Chairs of Committees

Incoming President of the Rotaract Club of Roseau

Rotarians and Partners in Service

Rotaractors

Other Invited Guests

The Media

Good night!

SPEECH

I wish to compliment you, the Rotary Club of Dominica, for this evening's gathering, to celebrate your leaders and share a friendship meal, in a spirit of service.

Special commendations to Miss Lima Jervier who was pinned as your New President!

Congratulations to the team, who was pinned as the New Board of your Organization!

When I was approached by Miss Jervier to deliver this speech, I thought, “The best person to do so on her behalf, would have been Fr. Clement Jolly, of blessed memory, who was a spiritual father to her.” I requested a few days to reflect on my response. Those were days of doubt and challenge but also, days of empowerment and blessings. Among the later were the opportunities to learn about the Rotary Club, allow myself to be touched by your mission, to marvel at your selflessness and generosity, to ponder on the radiant smiles your service brought to the faces of many, and simultaneously, to question and evaluate my own mission in this world.

We all have a mission! I was first struck by this truth many years ago, when, during a retreat, Fr. Jolly handed me a leaflet with the words of Venerable John Henry Newman, an Anglican priest, Theologian and Poet, who became a Catholic priest and Cardinal (1801-1890). He declared,

“God has created me to do him some definite service; He has committed some work to me, which He has not committed to another. I have my mission- I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.

Somehow, I am necessary for His purposes, as necessary in my place as the archangel is in his. If, indeed, I fail, he can raise another, as he could make the stones, the children of Abraham. Yet, I have a part in this great work.

I am a link in the chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for nothing. I shall do good, I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.”

These words came to mind while reading and reflecting on the great work of Rotary International and viewed the photos of your service here in Dominica. Yours is a special mission, and I am impressed, that in spite of the challenges of your profession, you commit yourselves to this unique service to humanity. Congratulations to Rotary International and hearty thanks to you, the Rotary Club of Dominica, for your dedicated service, to the development of our people, particularly the most deprived.

You are a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. Your theme for this year, “Rotary Connects The World” echoes the words of Venerable John Henry Newman. Truly, you connect people!

Your service to humanity also reminds me of the words of Stephen Grellet, and it is appropriate for your reflection:

“I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

You who embody your Organization, have been the eyes, ears, heart, hands and feet of the Lord. You are imitators of Jesus, the Servant par excellence. Continue

to reach out, rise to offer service before self, mindful that you are God's instruments, God's channel of grace, for a brother and sister in need. Be motivated by the fact that one person can make a significant difference in the life of another. You, each one of you can make a difference in the life another person. You are already making a difference in the lives of many, through your Organization.

The Lord is truly pleased with the service you render on His behalf, for the betterment of people in Dominica and throughout the world. Continue to strive to make the world a better place!

This was the mission of Fr. Clement Jolly. He made a difference for many, including Miss Jervier. I am here today because I was called to be a link in the chain of experiences, that have brought her to this night.

I recall that day in Soufriere, when Fr. Clement Jolly requested a favour from me- "Sr. Annita," he said, " I would like you to take care of a little girl for me. Her name is Lima Jervier. She is brilliant, very intelligent, she comes from a very humble family but we cannot let her go astray. She has potential. Hold her by the hand."

I had no clue who Lima was, had never met her, never heard of her, but I knew that it was part of my mission to walk with her and, with Fr. Jolly, to be an instrument, a channel of God's grace, that God may form his little girl, His child, and demonstrate to me and others, that truly, God lifts up the lowly.

I have known Miss Lima Jervier for many years. I marvelled at her love for learning during her primary school years and beyond, her discipline, perseverance, spirit of sacrifice, of service, humility and simplicity. She always had a generous smile which, in her childhood, burst through her pain and struggle. Still today, I am fascinated by her tremendous appreciation, gratitude and expressions of love. I

am thrilled that she is given an opportunity to serve your Organization in a leadership position. I am proud of you Miss Jervier!

As you serve as leader of your Club, remember the most deprived, and give them an opportunity to rise, just as you were given an opportunity to rise. Be a beacon of hope in our time!

I invite you to begin a group of Baby Rotarians, at the St. Luke's Primary School. The children must be introduced to your mission to serve, at a very early age. Do consider the invitation!

I wish Rotary International and more specifically, you, the Rotary Club of Dominica, God blessings on your journey of selfless service to people everywhere. I wish to conclude with the short prayer that ended the reflection of Venerable John Henry Newman :

“O Adonai...I give myself to you. I trust you wholly. You are wiser than I—more loving to me than I myself. Deign to fulfil your high purposes in me, whatever they may be---work in and through me. I am born to serve you; to be yours, to be your instrument. I ask simply to be used. Complete your work, O Lord, and as you have loved me from the beginning, so make me love you to end. Amen.

Thank you!



Sr. Annita Peter, D.J.