

Rotary Club of Milwaukee - INVOCATION GUIDELINES (Updated November 2019)

The Rotarian doing the invocation should have choice, and the right to be creative, but should try to make the invocation an organic part of the meeting. The most successful invocations are brief and connected to the meeting in a meaningful way. For example, a meaningful connection to the day’s meeting would be a recent or upcoming holiday (e.g. Labor Day), or the anniversary of a major event (e.g. the fall of the Berlin Wall). The invocations that work best are concise and relevant – either to the issue being discussed that day or something topical.

Please review the following guidelines when preparing an invocation.

1) Less is more.

Invocations should ideally take around 30 seconds, **definitely not longer than one minute**. The invocation should not be so long as to be a distraction from the meeting at hand. To that end, **invocations should be written and rehearsed**.

Please consider beginning each invocation with the following:

For our invocation today, I would like to offer ...

2) The invocation may be framed as a reflection or a prayer.

Do	Don't
Offer a prayer or reflection consistent with or referring to the theme of the program or current events, e.g. Veteran’s Day	Editorialize or convey opinions specific to the day’s program
Be sensitive to the fact that our club has members of diverse beliefs	Espouse an ideological view on an issue in the news
Preface a prayer with a reference to the religious tradition from which it was drawn, e.g. For our invocation today, I would like to offer this excerpt from a Tibetan prayer ...	Use traditional prayer openings or closings that are not non-denominational, such as “In Jesus’ name”

The Rotary Club of Milwaukee Board of Directors will monitor feedback, both solicited and unsolicited, of invocations presented and reserves the right to suspend a Rotarian’s invocation privileges should he or she deliberately disregard these guidelines.