

Masonry in Argentina and the World
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(This is written from a Roman Catholic perspective in Argentina)

Dedicated: to altars and homes, God and country

International Rotary, (pp. 188-190)
(the following is directly quoted and translated from the book)

...it proposes to moralize and improve our spirit, contributing to universal peace by the practice of a morality without dogma and by means of an absolute secularism and naturalism. It is international Masonry spread throughout the world, as an apprenticeship of the Order, to test, train and win followers. The directors are elected by Masons living in the North American city of Evanston, Illinois, near Chicago, seat of the central organization. Each club has a president, vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, and a mace-bearer; in each district there is a governor, who depends directly on the central organization, made up of a governing world board that is annually renewed.

This governing board of International Rotary consists of a president, three vice presidents, ten directors, a secretary and a treasurer. ...To elect the directors districts are grouped in zones. Each club...ought to have...a representative of each profession, business or institution recognized in the community where it is. ...they must be males.

The name came from the custom of the first club meeting by rotation in the homes or studies of the founding members. Two years later they were meeting in luxurious hotels, fitting for the social category of their members, industrial millionaires, bank magnets, commercial consortiums of profound international penetration. The official motto is "Give of yourself, before thinking of yourself. The one who serves best is most benefited."

The distinctive mallet of the master of the Masonic lodge is also the mallet of the president of the Rotary club, and the white flag of the Masons is the emblem of the Rotarians, substituting the two-headed eagle with the cogged wheel.

The governor, elected in the annual meeting of the district clubs, must be presented to Rotary International for definite approval. (A section follows telling how it is run and organized).

Rotary was founded February 23, 1905 in Chicago by the Masonic lawyer Paul Harris. It became international in 1912.....

.....in 1965...Rafael Cabral, governor of district 489 in Buenos Aires of Rotary International, said this in a television interview, "as Rotary is composed of people from the community, it will be Catholic when the community is Catholic, as in Argentina; and when the community is Protestant, it will be Protestant...there is no link with Masonry; although undoubtedly there are Masons in the clubs, because in Rotary there is no discrimination."

The New Lay Religion of Masonic Friendship, pp. 190-193

"Our plan," declared Harris, "is to omit all creeds and to glorify actual deeds. Rotary is open to Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists and atheists. Are we going to go backwards or go ahead with the progress of our time?"

The similarity to Masonry is rooted in its rationalistic naturalism, in its religious indifference, and in atheistic, universal morality. It proposes to improve humanity through friendship and camaraderie, substituting the Masonic apron with the secular tablecloth of the sumptuous table. In this campaign of social improvement religion has no place. "We should not even think about religion," said the governor of District 63 in 1936.

The Catholic, a soldier by vocation, should leave his arms at the door of the club....he will be unarmed against the errors that will be presented to him under the veil of indifference.

The Rotarian William Mayer affirmed, while in Mexico, that all ... Rotarians ought to be free of religious and national prejudice; and in 1944 the Argentinean Rotarian, Dr. Forno, asserted that "moral without dogma forms the conscience of Rotary."

The Belgian Rotarian, Hermann Doms, in 1927, expressed that "Rotary has no religion. It is strictly neutral, in the widest sense of the word."

In 1936 the Argentinean Rotarian, Salvador Díaz Moreno, stated that "Rotary is not interested in religion or revealed dogma; not in gods or saints. Rotary lives in the reality of the present; but at its depth there is a lay religion of friendship. The future will tell if it will have its Olympus."

April 11, 1944, Julián J. Lastra of the Rotary Club of Neuquén said, "On the summit of the mountain of the centuries there is a new cross, of Rotary, but it is a cross without a victim. Our moral Rotarian code is without dogmatic principles, but it is empirical and like the Gospel of the sacred scripture. With our good neighbor policy and our word of honor, we will achieve peace between men and harmony among nations." This is the same theory of the Masonic founder Harris, who said, forgetting about the coming of Jesus Christ and His Gospel, "the firm cement on which permanent world peace will be built, excluding all other, is Rotary." (from *El Rotario Argentino*, p. 22, May, 1944. *Revista Rotaria Internacional*)

General Pedro Aramburo, upon being made an honorary member of Rotary, expressed the following, "I know the high purposes that this institution pursues and so was delighted to be invited....I hope....that institutions like Rotary will multiply in this country, because from them comes a spiritual force so extraordinary that they support, and are a strong guarantee of democracy and liberty....."

On April 8, 1959 the interim ex-president, Pedro Aramburo, was bid good-bye in a secret meeting, by the Rotarian, Ramos Mejía, before taking a trip to Europe. Presiding at the table, as a guest of honor, was Sir Drysdale, Grand Master of Argentinean Masonry and confidential agent of S. M. B. (su majestad británica?). At his right sat the ex-president dressed in his 33rd degree Masonic apron. (*La Nación* of Jan. 16th and Feb. 13th, 1958. *Azul y Blanco*, April 14, 1959).

In 1926 the Rotarians sent a telegram to the "executioner" of the Catholic Church in Mexico, President Plutarco Calles. After congratulating him, they wrote: "We are willing to cooperate with your government to the extent we are able." Upon speaking about the Mexican religious question the New York Mason, Robert A. Grennfield, declared: "Masonry makes use of YMCA (Protestant) and also Rotary to combat Catholicism."

It is a fact that Rotary flourishes where there are many Masons, so that the Rotarians, generally, are only disguised Masons.

The founder was a Mason and the principal contributing Masons are the actual international directors. In London there is a Masonic lodge - the Rotary Lodge - exclusively reserved for Masonic Rotarians.

The January Bulletin of 1928 of the Spanish Grand Orient said that "Masons could consider themselves as the elder brothers of Rotarians, as there are many points of contact between the two institutions."

The Masonic magazine Alpina affirms that many Masons belong to Rotary clubs; and this is certainly understandable, given the principles of Rotary.

....the magazine "El Nivel" (The Level) edited in Buenos Aires, will inform the Masonic public (p. 193) in the Feb.-Mar., 1944 issue, about the "efficient work accomplished by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Argentina in conjunction with the Rotary club."

The Mason Pérez Torreblanca reported, in the Assembly of Symbolic Masonry of Spain in 1929: "Due to its origins Rotary Clubs will accomplish an international function similar to Masonry, although the limitation of purposes places them in a position of being lesser (younger) brothers of our Order. Masonry should collaborate with this movement so that their original purposes will not be lost." Due to the ecclesiastical censure of Rotary, he added, "Rotary, condemned by the church and persecuted by the bishops, deserves sympathetic consideration, to the extent of integrating it into Masonry where possible." (La prensa, 18 de diciembre de 1954)

Among diverse groups that owe their origin to Rotary, we should mention, especially for its great importance, the Lions Club. This institution, called International Lions, whose mother house is in Chicago, was birthed in Dallas, Texas, in 1917, as a younger brother of Rotary. Therefore, it is an international organization of Masonic origin that responds to petroleum interests in the United States.there are 700,000 members, called lions. LEONES stands for : loyalty, entendimiento (understanding), order, noble ideals, Esfuerzo (effort) for progress and service to the individual.

Rotary and Catholicism, pp. 194-198,

A number of quotes from various Catholic sources follow. I've included just a couple of them.

The bishop of Palencia said, "Rotary makes a profession of absolute secularism, of universal religious indifference, and attempts to present morality to individuals and societies by means of a naturalist, rationalist and even atheist doctrine. Therefore, our beloved faithful, good Catholics may not enter Rotarian clubs."

Every ethical system not based in Christian principles is not admissible for the Catholic and "the attempts to agree in this area - as we are warned by Pius the XI in his encyclical Mortalium, Jan. 6, 1928, cannot receive the approval of Catholics, because they are founded on the false opinions of those that think that all religions are, with little difference, equally good. Those that believe this will gradually end up in naturalism and atheism." (Colecc. Compl. de Enc. Post. op.cit. Vol. I, pp. 1114-1120. Enciclica "Mortalium animos" of Pius XI of Jan. 6, 1928.)

The famous English author, G.K. Chesterton, defines Rotary as "an organization without a soul, divested of all spiritual dignity. Rotary fellowship, he writes, has nothing of Christianity and its theory of self-sufficiency is the darkest of modern heresies. Man does not stand alone, he ought to rely on God; and Rotary omits all idea of divinity in human relationships. The brotherhood of man needs the Fatherhood of God. When the belief in supernatural is suppressed or avoided (as in Rotary) all is reduced to a mixed collection of presumptions." (Serra, op.cit. Vol. II, Page. 398. Comin Colomer, op.cit., p. 22)