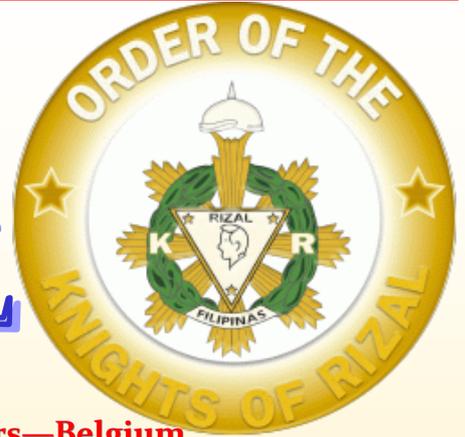




Newsletter Knights of RIZAL



Diamond Chapter Antwerp—Flanders—Belgium

Issue 23

Volume 4

Jan. 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Introduction - Message from the board**
- **Invitation 11th Chartering Anniversary**
- **Invitation 18th KOR International Assembly & Conference**
- **Looking back**
- **Writings from José Rizal**
- **Calendar**
- **Next Newsletter**
- **Board coordinates**
- **Our members**



Knights of Rizal - Diamond Chapter - Jan. 2010

Introduction

Dear Brother Knights of Rizal Diamond Chapter and affiliated chapters in Belgium, Europe and worldwide,

Dear friends of our organisation,

THE KOR DIAMOND CHAPTER WISHES TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF KOR:

**A VERY MERRY, INSPIRATIONAL, PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS 2010 AND
A STRONG, HEALTHY, FRIENDSHIP-RICH 2011.**

WE SINCERELY HOPE WE COULD SHARE IN 2011

A STRONG BROTHERHOOD

**WHERE WE IMPLEMENT THE RIZAL IDEAS AND GOALS IN OUR DAILY LIFE,
HERE IN BELGIUM, IN EUROPE AND WORLDWIDE.**

We look back at a very active 2010 for KOR Diamond and KOR Area of Belgium in general. To keep the spirit and ideals of Rizal alive we could accomplish so many activities from lectures, our successful 10th chartering anniversary, launching the première and one time performance of Calamba Joe musical under the direction of Sir Al Evangelio (in cooperation with KOR Belgium), promoting KOR in Belgium to postulants.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

KOR and its members were also very active on the 'field' in the Philippines by helping and implementing basic needs from education to health care. We attended or co-organised barbecues like Friendship for the Philippines in Knokke and Cadaatan in Kortemark recently, we made 'stronger teeth' by supporting the Dental Mission, Operation Smile, Coming Home etc. Some participated in the organisation of a Philippine Cultural Tourism Evening last Nov. 20 in the Casino of Blankenberge with the cooperation of the cultural organisation vtbKultuur Knokke, Blankenberge & Damme & the Philippine Embassy.

We attended and supported the Philippine Independence days in Brussels and Brugge June 12 and 13, the Pasko Sa Brussels by COFAB last December 4.

But the most important to be said is: thank you everybody for your support and devotion to the Order and for promoting the Philippines as a country where we believe in future and hope. Indeed, we are El Filibusterismo-friends who embrace values like democracy, freedom of speech, equality and respect to the Filipino and non-Filipino.

As our hero Rizal was shot on Bagumbayan Dec. 30, 1896, we see little by little the light in the darkness of that remarkable day.

Non omnis moriar. More power to KOR!

We hope to welcome you on Jan. 29, 2011 on our 11th and very special chartering anniversary with also the giving over of the sabre!

Please also browse on our updated website www.knightsofrizal.be

Yours very sincerely in Rizal

NOM

Board 2010-2012

Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KGOR, Chapter Commander Diamond – Antwerp

Area Commander Belgium

Sir Tony GUANSING, KGOR, Past Chapter Commander, Life Time Member, Regional Commander for Europe

Sir Peter VAN BOGAERT, KGOR, Special Adviser to the Supreme Commander Manila

Sir Kris VAN THILLO, KCR, Past Chapter Commander

Sir Roy DE MOL, KCR, Deputy Commander

Sir Rik VAN TIGGEL, KCR, Deputy Commander

Sir Paul VERLOO, KCR, Chancellor, Deputy Commander, Incoming Commander 2011

Sir Ronny FELIX, KOR, Archivist – Editor Newsletter



INVITATION
FOR MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!
11TH CHARTERING ANNIVERSARY
DIAMOND CHAPTER – ANTWERP—BELGIUM



WHERE

SALONS DE WATERMEULEN – Burchtstraat 160 – 9150 KRUIBEKE – location: www.watermeulen.be

PROGRAM

- ◆ welcome reception
- ◆ dubbing ceremony of new Knights (KR) – elevation to KOR – exaltation to KCR
- ◆ special Rizal program: Rizal in poetry and theatre
- ◆ short update supported projects 2008-2010
- ◆ giving over of Chapter Commandership Sir Dominiek Segaert, KGOR to Sir Paul Verloo, KCR
- ◆ Board KOR Diamond 2010-2012
- ◆ Inspirational talk by the Philippine Embassy and the Royal Embassy of Belgium (to be confirmed)
- ◆ toast on the new year
- ◆ special guests (surprise)
- ◆ fraternal dinner – world buffet with drinks
- ◆ the new Newsletter and updated website
- ◆ dessert – coffee – fellowship
- ◆ news from the Diamond Chapter – Belgian Council – European Council – Supreme Council – messages Sir Lino Paras, KGOR – Sir Antonio Guansing, KGOR, Regional Commander Europe
- ◆ Dancing – disco

PARTICIPATION

59 EUR members and non-members – children from 7 half price – everything included till 12 midnight (all drinks, apero, wines, water, coffee, ...)

RESERVATION

Before Jan. 22 through confirmation dominiek.segaert@skynet.be – 0479691865

PAYMENT

We prefer payment on the account

Diamond Chapter Rizal – Venneborglaan 90 – 2100 Deurne

IBAN BE86 9796 0951 3750 & BIC ARSPBE22

NOT TO BE MISSED

**18th KNIGHTS OF RIZAL INTERNATIONAL
ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE**

February 17, 18 and 19, 2010 – MANILA – PHILIPPINES

Venues: International Headquarters and Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel

Optional Tour: Cebu City, Rizal Shrine, Dapitan City

**THEME: The New Rizals: Emerging Leaders Innovating Across Sectors (ELIAS) and
Beyond Borders**

*ALL INFORMATION: SEE ATTACHMENT MEMO 69 ON FOLLOWING PAGE? ALSO IN OUR WEBSITE
www.knightsofrizal.be*



Order of the Knights of Rizal

(Chartered Under Republic Act No. 646)

SUPREME COUNCIL

Manila, Philippines

NON OMNIS MORIAR

A civic patriotic, cultural, non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-profit organization



MEMORANDUM No. 69, series of 2010-2012

FOR/TO: ALL KNIGHTS OF RIZAL
Regional and Deputy Regional Commanders
Area and Deputy Area Commanders
Chapter Commanders, Officers and Members
Counterpart Organizations/Ladies Auxiliaries

SUBJECT: 18th KOR International Assembly and Rizal Conference

Date: 02 December 2010

The Organizing Committee of the International Assembly and Conference (the Assembly and Conference) of the Order of the Knights of Rizal (KOR) is pleased to announce the 18th KOR Assembly and Conference scheduled in Manila on February 17, 18 and 19, 2011. The Assembly and Conference will be a landmark, once-in-a-lifetime commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal and the Centennial of the KOR.

Barring unforeseen events, the scheduled activities for this important and extraordinary Assembly and Conference shall include:

- Floral offering at the Rizal Monument in Rizal Park
- Courtesy Call and Lunch with the Mayor of Manila, Sir Alfredo Lim, KGCR
- Launching of two books co-published by the KOR
- Exhibit of Rizaliana and Filipiniana materials
- Keynote Address by Sir Justice Justo P. Torres, Jr., KGCR, Supreme Commander Emeritus
- Brief Reports by Overseas Regional Commanders and a Representative of National Regional Commanders
- Supreme Commander's Address: "Knights of Rizal: Directions and Initiatives for the Future"
- Papers to be read by Distinguished Speakers
- Workshops to discuss Conference topics (Eight workshop Groups for Knights of Rizal and Two Workshop Groups for Counterpart Organizations and Ladies Auxiliaries)
- Plenary Sessions
- Awarding and Conferment Ceremonies
- Rigodon de Honor
- Musical Numbers
- Fellowship and Ball Room Dancing in the evening
- A Rare Concert featuring Sir Joey Lina, Jr., KGCR, Lady Virginia Davide and Ms. Angela M. Cahoy
- Cebu Medical Mission coordinated by Lady Virginia Davide and Lady Charito Cairme, KBR NY Chapter
- Optional Activities: Post Conference Rizal Cultural tours to Dapitan or Calamba
Golf Tournament in Manila

Conference fees per head shall cover registration fees, hotel meals (February 17 and 18), Conference ID, kits and concerned materials. Costs of Registration fee are as follows:

For Overseas Chapters (KOR Members)	- US\$250.00/per head
For Overseas Counterpart Organizations and Ladies Auxiliaries	- US\$100.00 / per head
For Philippine / Local Chapters (KOR and Counterpart Organizations)	- Php2,500.00/per head

Payment of registration fees can be deposited through Metro Bank Savings Account number 151-3-15151380-9, SWIFT CODE: MBTCTHMM or BPI Dollar Savings Account 4954-0143-18, SWIFT CODE: BOPIPHMM with account name of "Order of the Knights of Rizal".

This landmark event promises to be a substantive and exciting worldwide gathering of Knights of Rizal, their Ladies, and auxiliaries. We hope therefore that you could come and bond with our brother-knights during this historic occasion. Attached herewith is the copy of the tentative program of activities for your reference and guidance.

For further information, please contact Mr. Edgar V. Rosero or Ms. Maureen Fernandez at the KOR International Headquarters. You can send the list of your delegates thru our e-mail address okorian84@yahoo.com, fax at 02-528-1973, or telephone numbers (02) 528-1974 or 521-0141, or mail by post to the Order of the Knights of Rizal, 3rd Floor, Knights of Rizal Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila.

We look forward to seeing and meeting you during the Assembly and Conference. Thank you in advance.

NON OMNIS MORIAR!

(ORIGINAL SIGNED)
SIR ROGELIO M. QUIAMBAO, KGCR
Over-All Chair, Organizing Committee
Member, Council of Elders
Supreme Commander, RY 1996-2001

(ORIGINAL SIGNED)
SIR PABLO S. TRILLANA III, KGCR
Supreme Commander, RY 2010-2012

Headquarters: 3rd Floor Knights of Rizal Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, Philippines or P.O. Box 102 Manila
Telephone Numbers: (02) 528-1974/ 521-0141 and Telefax: (02) 528-1973
E-mail Address: okorian84@yahoo.com

LOOKING BACK ACTIVITIES NOV.-DEC. 2010

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2010 - KRUIBEKE LECTURE "THE RIZAL-BLUMENTRITT CORRESPONDENCE"

BY SIR LUCIEN SPITTAEL

BARBECUE

FELLOWSHIP

A yearly autumn tradition in the KOR Diamond Chapter program is organising a Rizal-lecture. We had again the opportunity to enjoy a lecture from Sir Lucien Spittael, KGOR of the El Filibusterismo Chapter who entertained us



Sir Dominiek's introduction

in his usual enthusiastic style about the Rizal-Blumentritt-correspondence. Sir Geert Verhaegen, KR also give us an update about his recently held dental mission in and around the areas of Davao in Mindanao, project that was also sponsored last year by KOR Diamond. A sumptuous barbecue was well appreciated by the 50 participants, friends and some children: Sir Antonio & Susan Guansing, KGOR, Sir Peter Van Bogaert, KGOR, Sir Dominiek & Leah Seggaert-Gallego, KGOR, Sir Kris & Marisa Van Thillo, KCR and children, Sir Paul & Mayet Verloo, KCR and their friends Louis & Nancy, Sir Roy & Grace De Mol & children, Sir Ronny & Phoebe Felix, KOR, Sir Dirk & Grace Vandeweghe, KR, Sir Guy & Mercy Waterloos, KR, Sir Marc & Felly Helsen, KR, Sir Danny & Gina Vandenbogaerde & Gina

(who celebrated that evening her 40th anniversary!), KR & children, Sir Geert & Faith Verhaegen, KR, Sir Joseph Sneyaert, KR & children, Sir Rik & Rea Van Tiggel, KCR, son, family & friends, Sir Kristoff & Rama Mortier, KR, Sir Father Bago "Ogy", Eric & Herman, Sir Marc & Rowena Wouters, KR, Sir Lucien & Madeleine Spittael, KGOR, Sir Robert & Grace Kukenheim (Brussels Chapter).

Sir Ronny Felix projected during the event continuously in a PPT pictures of recently held events: Independence Day, Rizal musical, KGOR Sir Dominiek, KCR Belgian Ambassador Sir Meerschman Manila, barbecue Friendship for the Philippines Knokke-Heist, Oath Taking & Induction Europe in Brussels.



Sir Lucien during his presentation

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)



LOOKING BACK

KNIGHTS OF RIZAL ALIVE IN EUROPE

NOVEMBER 6 - 2010

European Induction & Gala Brussels

On November 6, 2010 the European KOR Induction & Gala Dinner took place at the Hilton International in Brussels. Hundreds of participants witnessed the official oath taking of the Regional Commander for Europe, Sir Antonio Guansing, KGOR, who was appointed for the 2nd term by the KOR Supreme Council Manila and the Deputy Area Commander for Europe, Sir Bernard Pot, KCR.



Master of ceremony Sir Lino Paras, KGOR and Sir Rudy Nollas, KGOR, Special Assistant to the Reg. Comm., presented the Council of Advisers for the Reg. Comm.: Sir Celso Lacuna, KGOR, Sir Cesar Alcoba, KGOR and Sir Peter Van Bogaert, KGOR (who were both excused), Sir Angel Palomar, KGOR and Sir Alfonso Taguiang, KCR.

During the touching ceremony there was a pledge to the Philippine flag followed by the Rizalian pledge. The oath taking of the European Council started with the Pambansang Awit Lupang Hinirang lead by Sir Tony Sienes, KCR and

Master of ceremony Sir Lino Paras

an invocation by Sir Re. Fr. Raymond Gaspar while the oath taking itself was officiated by H.E. Ambassador Enrique A. Manalo. All witnessed by Knights and Ladies of different Chapters in Belgium and Europe.

After being appointed last Summer 2010 now the newly assigned Area and Deputy Area Commanders were officially inducted.

Czech Republic: Area Comm. Sir Noubikko Ulanday, KCR, Deputy Sir Stephan Klokocha, KCR.

Germany: Area Comm. Sir Manfred Schnell, KGOR, Deputy Sir Romeo Garcia, KCR

Spain: Area Comm. Sir Exequel Sabarillo, KCR, Deputy Sir Jesus Centenera, KCR

Belgium: Area Comm. Sir Dominiek Segaert, KGOR, Deputy Sir Edmund Rojas, KCR

France: Area Comm. Sir Jessie Umali, KCR, Deputy Sir Leovigildo Mojica, KCR



H.E. Ambassador Enrique A. Manalo

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Keynote speaker H.E. Ambassador Enrique A. Manalo expressed his admiration and sympathy for the very active KOR in Belgium. The Embassy will be as in the past true partners. He reminded about the significant role Rizal played in Europe and Brussels.



Before the reception started, there was an exaltation ceremony of newly elected chapter commanders, elevation to the 2nd degree rank KOR, dubbing ceremony for new members and oath-taking Ladies of Rizal (Kababaihang Rizalista), finalised with the Pilipinas Kong Mahal and the Fraternal Sign "Non Omnis Moriar – Not everything in me will die – Hini lahat sa akin ay papanaw".

The European council

A sumptuous dinner followed at the top floor of Hilton, messages Area Commanders, Knights of Rizal Hymn, live singing by some KOR and dance a go go!

There were chapters of Belgium (Aalst, Brussels, Charleroi, Diamond Antwerp), Czech Republic, France, Germany, Spain, United Kingdom, representatives of the diplomatic corps (Ambassador Manalo was accompanied by Consul & Minister Roy Ecrabela), ladies, friends and postulants of the KOR. Paris Dimasalang & Diamond Chapter Belgium brought a huge delegation on the event.

Present were: Sir Antonio & Susan Guansing, KGOR, Sir Dominiek & Leah Segaert-Gallego, KGOR, Sir Paul & Mayet Verloo, KCR, Sir Ronny & Phoebe Felix, KOR, Sir Danny & Gina Vandenberg, KR, Sir Marc & Felly Helsen, KR, Sir Marc & Rowena Wouters, KR.



The Area and Deputy Area Commanders for Europe

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)



The Antwerp Diamond Chapter delegation



Ladies Aurea Taguiang, Leah Segaert and Magalie



Father Bago and his Diamond Ladies

(Continued on page 12)



Sir Marc Helsen & Felly



Sir Danny Vandebogaerde & Gina



Sir Mark Wouters & Rowena



Sir Ronny Felix & Phoebe



Sir Paul VerLoo & Mayet



Phoebe & Sir Edmund 'Travolta' Rochas

LOOKING BACK

DVD Rizal Belgium and plans KOR Europe

Reflections of this beautiful evening can be seen on a DVD about KOR Belgium produced by Sir Roelito Quiambao (ro.quiambao@yahoo.com) who also produced the still available dvd of the Rizal Musical held in Knokke-Heist, Belgium June 19. Also on the website www.knightsofrizal.be and in the upcoming Newsletter of KOR that can be mailed through application via the website.

The European KOR will work on restoring and/or implementing Rizal Markers through the effort of the National Historical Institute and KOR International Headquarters (information Sir Choy Arnaldo, member of the Supreme Council and European Representative), organising more Rizal significant activities to further promote the goals of the National Hero and the culture of the Philippines in general, work to encourage more active members in the knighthood for the future of the KOR (referring to the recent memoranda published about higher input in membership worldwide by Sir Trillana III, Supreme Commander and Council). Currently the Belgian Chapters Aalst, Charleroi and also Brussels updated their board and could welcome new members. KOR Aalst welcomed and elevated new members last Dec. 18 under the commandership of Sir Maximo Villaroman Jr, KCR. KOR Diamond celebrates its 11th chartering anniversary on Jan. 29, 2011 at 4.30 p.m. in Kruibeke with an unforgettable Rizal-program.

CONGRATS TO KOR AALST CHAPTER DECEMBER 18 – 2010

KOR Diamond wishes to congratulate Sir Maximo Villaroman with his exaltation to KCR and the giving over of the Chapter Commandership from Sir Arevalo, KCR to him last Dec. 18.

Congratulations also to the following Sirs who were elevated to KOR: Sir Leonard 'Bob' Obico – Sir Ronald Marquita – Sir Lucky Villaflores – Sir Precious Magnaye – Sir Henthie "Noy" Garcia – Sir John 'Jun' Lim.

Congratulations to the newly dubbed knights: Sir Ramon Rebong and Sir Reynaldo Martin.

A message by the Area Commander for Belgium, Sir Dominiek, was read by Sir Maximo.

LOOKING BACK

RIZAL DAY – 30 DEC. 2010

Some 50 members, friends and children of the different KOR Chapters of the Area of Belgium were gathered in the Conference Hall at the Philippine Embassy in Brussels. A solemn moment of silence and flowering laying at



the bust of our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal started at 6.15 p.m. the 114th commemoration of Rizal's martyrdom (Dec. 30, 1896-Dec. 30, 2010). Father Bago lead the prayer, followed by the national anthem, lead by Sir Tony Sienes, KCR. The welcome address was spoken by Sir Dominiek Segært, KGOR, Area Commander KOR Belgium who introduced Ms. Marichu B. Mauro, Minister & Consul General who read the inspirational message by H.E. Ambassador Enrique A. Manalo who was at another official mission. A fraction of his touching message:

"We have to make the same sacrifice (quoting Rizal), not to fight for freedom, but vanquish poverty and social ills that pervade our society. We need to heal the deep divisions within our society. We need to support the political and economic reforms of our country so that together we can become a strong, just and progressive nation.

I wish to end this message by quoting Dr. Rizal through his Father Florentino in his novel El Filibusterismo: "... our liberty will not be secured at the sword's point... We must secure it by making ourselves worthy of it, by exalting the intelligence and the dignity of the individual, by loving justice, right, and greatness, even to the extent of dying for them." Let us continue to aspire for and promote the values advocated by Dr. José Rizal." Signed, H.E. Ambassador Enrique A. Manalo, Dec. 30 – 2010.

The program continued with messages from the representatives of the different chapters that evening: Sir Maximo Villaroman, KCR, Chapter Commander KOR Aalst, Sir Tony Sienes, KCR, Chapter Commander KOR Brussels Rizal, Sir Jean-Claude Herman, KCR, Chapter Commander KOR Charleroi and Sir Dominiek Segært, KGOR,

(Continued on page 15)



Sir Tony Guansing

he touching Rizal Day was finalised by encouraging words of Sir Antonio Guansing, KGOR, Regional Commander KOR Europe who expressed also his hope that KOR Belgium and Europe would participate at the upcoming 18th International KOR Assembly in Manila Feb. 17, 18 & 19 Feb. 2011 (see further). We all sang Pilipinas Kong Mahal directed by Sir Sienes, followed by the Non Omnis Moriar, picture taking, reception with toast and fellowship. The Embassy doors closed around 9 p.m. Thanks to everybody who participated! Of KOR Diamond we had Sir Antonio, Sir Peter, Sir Paul, Sir Ronny, Sir Danny B. en Sir Danny V., Sir Marc H., Sir Guy, Sir Geert, Sir Dominiek and their Ladies and children.

Chapter Commander KOR Diamond Antwerp. The El Filibusterismo Chapter was excused by Sir Lucien Spittaël, KGOR. Lady Nina Fernandez delivered words from the Kababaihang Rizalista, the Ladies of Rizal.

Sir Rudy Nollas, KGOR, Past Area Commander & Special Assistant to the Regional Commander touched us by his words, followed by a message by Sir Felino Paras, KGOR, Past Regional Commander Europe & Member of the Council of Advisers to the Regional Commander.

Sir Dominiek Segaert thanked everybody who participated in the event, also by offering wine, other drinks, salo salo and informed about his plan to schedule a meeting with the Area of KOR Belgium in January or February at a moment suitable for everyone. T



Ms Mauro hands over the speech to Sir Dominiek



Past Area Commander Sir Rudy Nollas

LOOKING BACK

Pasko sa Brussels—December 4th.

As usual KOR Diamond supported Pasko sa Brussels and this year on Dec. 4, it was Sir Peter Van Bogaert, KGOR, Honorary Consul General and Member of the Council of Advisers to the Regional Commander, who decorated as the very first representative of the different organisations, the huge Christmas tree. We have chosen the logo of the Knights of Rizal Diamond Chapter.

Thanks to Dhell Lulu for sending us the picture! And thanks to Sir Peter for the nice job and message!



WRITINGS ABOUT AND FROM JOSE RIZAL

Dear fellow knights and friends,

This is the fifth part of the writings of José Rizal about his youth as a student. The English text is a copy from the website of dr Robert L. Yoder. The translation is from Ronny Felix.

Memoirs of a Student in Manila

Chapter 5: Two Years in College

Soon to become eighteen years old and disillusioned, scarcely have I stepped on life's threshold, I direct my glance toward the first time the breath of the tempest, already engulfed, turns his glance toward the shore and reminds him of his peaceful hours. Ah, I weep for you, placid hours that disappeared from the scene of my life more rapidly and fugaciously than lightning that shines on the dark road of the traveler. So sad is my situation that I doubt if I had ever been happy at all for I doubt if those days had ever existed.

During vacation my sisters made clothes for me and during that time also my sister Narcisa married . . . I cannot portray here what I felt on seeing the separation of a sister whom I loved so much . . . and notwithstanding it had to be thus.

I entered college then on 16 June 1875. My classmates received me well. The brother wardrobe-keeper assigned to me an alcove located in the corner of the dormitory looking out to the sea and the embankment. It consisted of a space of about two square varas, (25) an iron bedstead on which they placed my bedding, a small table with a basin, which a servant filled with water, a chair and a clothes rack. I forgot to say that in the little table I had a drawer with soap, comb, brushes for the hair and for the teeth, powder, etc. My little money that amounted to some eight pesos, I kept under my pillow. We didn't go to the alcove but twice a day regularly, once at siesta to wash and again at night to sleep. On holidays, in the afternoons, we dressed and we went out for a stroll. The rest of the time we spent in the study hall, at recess, in the classes, in the dining room, and in the chapel.

In spite of my thirteen years to fourteen, I was still very small, and as it is known that new students, especially the small ones, are received by the big ones with jokes, so it was on my first day, my pranks having attracted their attention. In a chorus they teased me and when they calmed down I told them in a tranquil voice: "Gentlemen, thanks." Since then they respected me and they didn't tease me maliciously. Excepting a few, all my companions were good, simple, pious, just, and amiable. There was no one among us who would want to control the rest by force, for

Beste collega ridders, vrienden,

Dit is het vijfde deel van de geschriften van José Rizal over zijn jeugd tijdens zijn studententijd. De Engelse tekst is een kopij van de website van dr Robert L. Yoder. De vertaling is van Ronny Felix.

Memoires van een student in Manila

Hoofdstuk 5: Twee jaar in het hoger onderwijs

Binnenkort word ik achttien jaar en gedesillustioneerd, nauwelijks stapte ik op de drempel van het leven, en richt ik mijn blik naar de eerste keer dat de adem van de storm, reeds verzwolgen, naar de wal gluurt en hem herinnert aan zijn vreedzame uren. Ach, ik huil voor jou, rustige uren die sneller en vergankelijker van het toneel van mijn leven verdwenen dan bliksem die schittert op de donkere weg van de reiziger. Zo droevig is mijn situatie dat ik betwijfel of ik ooit gelukkig geweest ben want ik betwijfel of die dagen ooit hebben bestaan.

Tijdens de vakantie maakten mijn zussen kleren voor mij en in die tijd trouwde ook mijn zusje Narcisa. . . Ik kan hier niet beschrijven wat ik voelde bij het zien van de scheiding van een zuster waar ik zo van hield. . . en desondanks moest het zo zijn.

Ik kwam vervolgens in het college op 16 juni 1875. Mijn klasgenoten ontvingen me goed. De broer garderobe-toezichter wees mij een nis toe in de hoek van de slaapzaal met uitzicht op de zee en de dijk. Het bestond uit een ruimte van ongeveer twee vierkante varas (25), een ijzeren ledikant waarop zij mijn beddengoed plaatsten, een kleine tafel met een waskom die een dienaar gevuld had met water, een stoel en een kledingrek. Ik vergat te zeggen dat ik in de kleine tafel een lade had met zeep, kam, borstels voor het haar en voor de tanden, poeder, enz. Mijn weinige geld, een bedrag van ongeveer acht pesos, hield ik onder mijn kussen. We gingen maar twee keer per dag naar de alkoof, eenmaal bij de siësta om ons te wassen en 's avonds om te slapen. Op vakantiedagen kleedden we ons aan in de namiddag en gingen we wandelen. De rest van de tijd besteedden we in de studiezaal, op reces, in de klassen, in de eetzaal en in de kapel.

In weerwil van mijn dertien à veertien jaar was ik nog erg klein en zoals bekend is worden nieuwe studenten, vooral de kleintjes, door de groten ontvangen met grappen. Zo was het ook op mijn eerste dag dat mijn streken hun aandacht trokken. In koor plaagden ze me en toen ze kalmeerden sprak ik met rustige stem: "Heren, bedankt". Sindsdien respecteerden ze mij en plaagden ze me niet kwaadwillig. Met uitzondering van een paar waren al mijn metgezellen goed, eenvoudig, vroom, rechtvaardig en beminnelijk. Er was

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

power is achieved through skill. I had the luck to win if not the love at last the esteem of all of them. The names of some of my classmates shall never be erased from my memory; among them that of one Jovellanos, of one Lete (Enrique) and of others whose enumeration would be very pleasant for me but I foresee will be vexing to the reader.

Our Professor was a model of uprightness, earnestness, and love of the advancement of his pupils; and so much was his zeal that I, who scarcely spoke very ordinary Spanish, at the end of a short time, succeeded already to write it moderately well. His name was Francisco de Paula Sanchez. With his aid I studied mathematics, rhetoric, and Greek with some advantage. Often I got sick with fever despite the gymnastic exercises that we had, in which I was very much behind, though not so in drawing under a teacher worthy of his name and under whose guidance I still continue to study. I'm proud to tell you, reader, that I spent this year better than anybody else as a student, as a man, and as a Christian. Ten months passed that I haven't written anything in my diary because I don't want to relate to you inspired occurrences, and thank God I won five medals with an immense pleasure for with them I could somewhat repay my father for his sacrifices. What sentiments of gratitude did not then spring from my heart and with what sad delight I kept them still! After having bidden farewell to my superiors, teachers, and companions, I left. . . Who has not felt the vague melancholy that seizes the heart upon separating from one's companions? Who, at the age of fourteen years, if he has enjoyed the favor of the Muses, does not shed tears on the transition from childhood to young manhood?

My arrival at my hometown in the company of a father who idolized me mitigated somewhat my sorrow, and I spent my vacation in the best way possible.

I retained to college after three months and I began to study again, though the subject that I took was different. I was in the fifth year and already I was a philosopher. I had other professors, called Fathers Vilaclara and Minoves, the first one of whom liked me very much and to whom I was somewhat ungrateful. Although I was studying philosophy, physics, chemistry, and natural history and in spite of the fact that Father Vilaclara had told me to give up the society of the Muses and give them a last goodbye (which made me cry), in my leisure hours, I continued speaking and cultivating the beautiful language of Olympus under the direction of Father Sanchez. So sweet is their society that after having tasted it, I cannot conceive how a young heart can abandon it. What matters, I said to myself, the poverty that is the eternal companion of the Muses? Is there anything sweeter than poetry and sadder than the prosaic positivism of metallic hearts? Thus I dreamed then!

I studied the fifth year course with the same success as the previous one, though under other circumstances. Upright, severe philosophy, inquiring into the why of things attracted also my attention as did poetry, beautiful as she

niemand onder ons die de rest met geweld had willen controleren want macht wordt bereikt door bekwaamheid. Ik had het geluk om, indien niet de liefde, dan toch de achting van allen te winnen. De namen van sommige van mijn klasgenoten zullen nimmer uit mijn geheugen gewist worden, onder hen die van Jovellanos, van Lete (Enrique) en van anderen wier opsomming erg prettig voor mij zou zijn maar irriterend voor de lezer.

Onze professor was een toonbeeld van rechtschapenheid, eerlijkheid en liefde voor de ontwikkeling van zijn leerlingen, en zijn ijver was zo groot dat ik, die nauwelijks het gewone Spaans sprak, er na een korte tijd al in geslaagd was om het matig te schrijven. Zijn naam was Francisco de Paula Sanchez. Met zijn steun studeerde ik wiskunde, retorica en het Grieks met enig voordeel. Vaak werd ik ziek met koorts, ondanks de gymnastische oefeningen die we hadden, waarin ik heel veel achter was, maar niet zo in tekenen onder een leraar zijn naam waardig en onder wiens begeleiding ik nog steeds verder studeer. Ik ben fier om u te vertellen, lezer, dat ik dit jaar beter dan iemand anders was als student, als man, en als christen. Tien maanden gingen voorbij zonder dat ik iets in mijn dagboek geschreven heb omdat ik u niet wil vertellen over inspirerende gebeurtenissen, en dank God dat ik vijf medailles won met immens genoeg want daarmee kon ik enigszins mijn vader terug betalen voor zijn offers. Welke gevoelens van dankbaarheid ontsproten toen uit mijn hart en met wat een droevige vreugde bewaarde ik ze nog steeds! Na afscheid genomen te hebben van mijn superieuren, docenten en begeleiders, ging ik weg. . . Wie heeft niet de vage melancholie gevoeld die naar het hart grijpt bij de scheiding van zijn kameraden? Wie, op de leeftijd van veertien jaar, indien hij heeft genoten van de gunst van de Muzen, vergiet geen tranen bij de overgang van kindertijd naar jonge volwassenheid?

Mijn aankomst in mijn woonplaats in het gezelschap van een vader die mij verafgoodde verzachtte enigszins mijn verdriet, en ik heb mijn vakantie op de best mogelijke manier doorgebracht.

Ik ging terug naar de universiteit na drie maanden en begon opnieuw te studeren, al was het onderwerp dat ik nam anders. Ik was in het vijfde jaar en nu al was ik een filosoof. Ik had andere hoogleraren, genaamd Vaders Vilaclara en Minoves, de eerste hield heel veel van me en ik was hem een beetje ondankebaar. Hoewel ik filosofie, natuurkunde, scheikunde en natuurgeschiedkunde studeerde en in weerwil van het feit dat vader Vilaclara me had gezegd het gezelschap van de Muzen op te geven en ze een laatste afscheid te geven (die mij aan het huilen maakte), bleef ik, in mijn vrije uren, de mooie taal van Olympus spreken en cultiveren onder leiding van pater Sanchez. Zo lief is hun gezelschap dat, eenmaal geproefd, ik niet kan begrijpen hoe een jong hart dit kan verlaten. Welk belang heeft de armoede die de eeuwige metgezel van de Muzen is zei ik tegen mezelf. Is er iets zoeter dan de poëzie en triester dan het prozaische positivisme van metalen harten? Zo droomde ik toen!

Ik studeerde het vijfde jaar met hetzelfde succes als het

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

alone can be, playing with the charms of nature and leaving traces that breathe sublimity and tenderness. Physics, lifting up the veil that covers many things, showed me a wide stage where the divine drama of nature was performed. The movement, sound, warmth, light, electricity, a thousand varied phenomena, the most beautiful colors and delicate beauties entertained me during my free hours. Polarization plunged me into a world of mysteries from which I have not yet emerged. Ah, how beautiful is science when the one teaching it knows how to embellish it! Natural history seemed to me somewhat antipathetic. Why, I asked myself, if the perusal of history and the description of the birds and flowers, of animals and of crystals captivate me so much, why do I loathe seeing them reduced to a harsh order and wild animals mixed with tame ones? Shells pleased me very much for their beauty and because I knew that they inhabited the beaches of which my innocent imagination dreamed and treading on them I imagined the most beautiful waters of the seas and lakes lapping my feet. Sometimes I seemed to see a goddess with a shell that I saw in the shelf.

At last the end of the term came and the same thing happened to me. I carried away another five medals due to the indulgence with which my superiors treated me and to my no little luck in winning them. The day before the distribution of prizes, a feeling tormented me, the saddest and most melancholy that I had ever felt. On thinking that I had to leave that asylum of peace in which was somewhat opened my mind and my heart began to have better sentiments, I fell into a profound sadness. The last night on going to my dormitory and considering that night would be the last I would spend in my peaceful alcove, because, according to what they said, the world was waiting for me, I had a cruel presentiment which unfortunately was realized. The moon shone mournfully, illuminating the lighthouse and the sea, presenting a silent and grand spectacle that seemed to tell me that the next day another life awaited me. I was unable to sleep until one o'clock in the morning. It dawned and I dressed. I prayed fervently in the chapel and commended my life to the Virgin so that when I should step into that world which inspired me with so much terror, she would protect me. The prizes were distributed, they gave me the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and I believe that any young man who was fifteen years old, loved by his companions and professors, with five medals and the degree of Bachelor of Arts, the dream of the student of the secondary course, should be very much contented. (26) But, alas, it did not turn out that way! I was sad, cold, and pensive. Two or three tears rolled down my cheeks, tears offered as in farewell to the time past, to my good luck that would never come back, to my peace that soared to heaven leaving me alone on earth. Imagine it and you will feel it, if you have a heart.

Now it remains for me to evaluate the two years that I consider the happiest of my life, if happiness consists in living without vexatious cares. In what way have I advanced, that is, what had I learned during the first year of my resi-

vorige maar wel onder andere omstandigheden. Onbesproken, ernstige filosofie, vragend naar het waarom van de dingen trok ook mijn aandacht net als poëzie, mooi zoals zij alleen kan zijn, spelend met de charmes van de natuur en sporen nalatend die verhevenheid en tederheid uitademen. Natuurkunde, het optillen van de sluier die vele dingen omvat, toonde me een groot podium waar het goddelijke drama van de natuur werd uitgevoerd. De beweging, geluid, warmte, licht, elektriciteit, duizend verschillende verschijnselen, de meest prachtige kleuren en fijne schoonheid vermaakten mij tijdens mijn vrije uren. Polarisatie stortte me in een wereld van mysteries waar ik nog niet ben uitgekomen. Ach, hoe mooi is de wetenschap als diegene die het onderwijst weet hoe het te versieren! Natuurgeschiedkunde leek mij enigszins antipathiek. Waarom, vroeg ik mezelf af, als de inzage van de geschiedenis en de beschrijving van de vogels en bloemen, van dieren en van kristallen me zo veel boeien, waarom moet ik walgen van ze gereduceerd te zien tot een strenge orde en wilde dieren gemengd met tamme? Schelpen bevielen me heel erg door hun schoonheid en omdat ik wist dat zij de stranden bewoonden die mijn onschuldige fantasie droomde en op hen trappend stelde ik me de mooiste wateren van de zeeën voor en meren die aan mijn voeten kabbelden. Soms leek ik een godin te zien in een schelp die ik op het schap zag.

Eindelijk kwam het einde van de termijn en hetzelfde overkwam mij opnieuw. Ik kon weer vijf medailles meebrengen dankzij de toegeeflijkheid waarmee mijn superieuren mij behandelden en mijn geen klein beetje geluk bij het winnen van hen. De dag vóór de prijsuitreiking kwelde mij een gevoel, het treurigste en meest melancholische dat ik ooit had gevoeld. Bij het gedacht dat ik moest afscheid nemen van dat asiel van vrede dat enigszins mijn geest geopend had en mijn hart betere gevoelens gaf, viel ik in een diepe droefheid. De laatste nacht toen ik naar mijn slaapzaal ging en gezien het feit dat dit de laatste zou zijn die ik zou doorbrengen in mijn rustige nis, omdat, volgens men zei, de wereld op me wachtte, had ik een voorgevoel dat helaas wreed werd gerealiseerd. De maan scheen treurig, verlichtte de vuurtoren en de zee, een stil en groots spektakel voorstellend dat me leek te vertellen dat de volgende dag een ander leven me te wachten stond. Ik kon niet slapen tot één uur in de ochtend. Het schemerde en ik kleepte me aan. Ik bad vurig in de kapel en vertrouwde mijn leven toe aan de Maagd, zodat ze me zou beschermen wanneer ik in die wereld zou stappen die me met zoveel angst inboezemde. De prijzen werden verdeeld, ze gaven me de graad van Bachelor of Arts, en ik denk dat iedere jonge man van vijftien jaar, geliefd door zijn metgezellen en professoren, met vijf medailles en de graad van Bachelor of Arts, de droom van de student van het secundair onderwijs, heel erg tevreden zou zijn. (26) Maar helaas, bleek het zo niet te zijn! Ik was verdrietig, koud en somber. Twee of drie tranen rolden over mijn wangen, tranen aangeboden als afscheid van het verleden, tot mijn geluk dat nooit terug zou komen, om mijn vrede die naar de hemel steeg, me alleen op aarde latend. Stel je het voor en je zal het voelen als u een hart hebt.

Nu blijft voor mij de twee jaar te evalueren die ik het

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

dence in college? What did I get from what I had learned?

I entered college still a child with very little knowledge of Spanish, with a moderately developed mind, and almost without refined sentiments. By force of study, of analyzing myself, of aspiring higher, of a thousand corrections, I was little by little transformed thanks to the beneficent influence of a zealous professor. My mortality of that time makes me now sigh on remembering that state of sweetest tranquility of my spirit. By cultivating poetry and rhetoric, my sentiments were further elevated and Virgil, Horace, Cicero, and other authors showed me another road through which I could walk to attain one of my aspirations. I don't know if my present state makes me see the beauty of the past and the sadness of the present, but the truth is that when I was a college student, I never wanted to leave college and that now I would give anything to get over this terrible age of youth. Had I been perchance like the brook that, while following its delightful way amidst willows and dense flowers smiles and frolics and upon being converted into a torrent angrily and turbulently flings itself until it is buried in the sea?

My second year in college resembled the first with the difference that patriotic sentiments as an exquisite sensibility had been greatly developed in me. It passed like the first among principles of logic, physics, and poetical compositions. I had advanced somewhat in the cultivation of the Muses so much that I had composed a legend that suffered very slight correction by my professor and a dialogue that was staged for the first time at the end of the school term, alluding to the students' farewell.

Goodbye then, beautiful, unforgettable period of my life, brief twilight that will not shine again! If my eyes no longer shed tears upon recalling you, my heart melts and seems to be oppressed! I have your memory here in my heart, in my mind, in my whole being. Farewell fortunate hours of my lost childhood; fly to the bosom of pure Innocence that created you to sweeten the moments of tender hearts.

Manila, 1 December 1879.

(25) *A vara is a measure of length, about 32 inches.*

(26) *W. E. Retana, Rizal's Spanish biographer, writes in his Vida y escritos del Dr. José Rizal (Madrid, 1907, p. 30) ". . . Rizal at the age of scarcely sixteen years, or rather when he left the Ateneo with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in his pocket, was studious, very studious; reflective, modest, of great moral honesty; and besides having passed with the grade of excellent in all subjects and won through competition almost all the prizes, had shown signs of being a poet, and designer. In truth, the same cannot be said of all men.*

gelukkigste van mijn leven vond, als geluk bestaat uit het leven zonder lastige hoede. Op welke manier ben ik geevolueerd, dat wil zeggen, wat had ik geleerd tijdens het eerste jaar van mijn verblijf op de universiteit? Wat haalde ik eruit van wat ik had geleerd?

Ik kwam als kind in het college met zeer weinig kennis van het Spaans, met een matig ontwikkelde geest, en bijna zonder geraffineerde gevoelens. Door de studie, het analyseren van mezelf, van hoger te willen, van duizend correcties, was ik beetje bij beetje veranderd dankzij de weldadige invloed van een ijverige professor. Mijn sterftelijkheid van toen doet me nu zuchten bij de herinnering aan de zoetste rust van mijn geest. Door het cultiveren van poëzie en retoriek, werden mijn gevoelens verder verhoogd en Vergilius, Horatius, Cicero, en andere auteurs hebben me een andere weg laten zien die ik kon bewandelen om één van mijn ambities te verwezenlijken. Ik weet niet of mijn huidige toestand me de schoonheid van het verleden en het verdriet van het heden laat zien, maar de waarheid is dat toen ik nog een student was, ik nooit de universiteit wilde verlaten en dat ik nu alles zou geven om over deze verschrikkelijke leeftijd te gaan. Was ik misschien net als de beek, die, terwijl ze haar aangename weg volgt temidden van wilgen en dichte bloemen, glimlacht en stoeit, en wanneer zij verandert in een vloed, zich boos en onstuimig gooit tot ze begraven is in de zee?

Mijn tweede jaar op de universiteit leek op het eerste met het verschil dat patriottische gevoelens zoals een uitstekende gevoeligheid sterk was ontwikkeld in mij. Het verliep zoals de eerste onder de principes van de logica, natuurkunde en poëtische composities. Ik was iets geevolueerd in de vorming van de Muzen, zo veel dat ik een legende had opgemaakt die maar een zeer lichte verbetering van mijn professor nodig had en een dialoog die voor het eerst werd opgevoerd aan het eind van het schooljaar, verwijzend naar het studentenafcheid.

Vaarwel dan, mooie, onvergetelijke periode uit mijn leven, korte schemering, die niet meer zal schijnen! Als mijn ogen geen tranen meer afscheiden bij de herinnering, smelt mijn hart en lijkt te worden onderdrukt! Ik heb je herinnering in mijn hart, in mijn gedachten, in mijn hele wezen. Vaarwel gelukkige uren van mijn verloren jeugd; vlieg naar de boezem van de pure onschuld, die u geschapen heeft om de momenten van tedere harten te verzoeten.

Manilla, 01 december 1879.

(25) *Een vara is een maat voor de lengte, ongeveer 32 centimeter.*

(26) *WE Retana, Rizal? S Spaanse biograaf, schrijft in zijn 'Vida y Escritos del Dr José Rizal' (Madrid, 1907, blz. 30)". . . Rizal op de leeftijd van amper zestien jaar, of liever gezegd toen hij het Ateneo verliet met de graad van Bachelor of Arts in zijn zak, was leergierig, zeer leergierig, bedachtzaam, bescheiden, van grote morele eerlijkheid, en naast geslaagd te zijn met uitmuntendheid in alle vakken en bijna alle prijzen won door wedijver, had tekenen laten zien van dichter en ontwerper. In feite kan hetzelfde niet gezegd worden van alle mensen."*

CALENDAR

- ◆ *Thursd. Jan. 6, 2011 – 4 p.m. Board meeting at Honorary Consulate General*
- ◆ *Sat. Jan. 29 – 4.30 p.m. – 11th CHARTERING ANNIVERSARY KOR Diamond*
- ◆ *January or beginning February – planning of an Meeting of the Area of Belgium in Brussels with all Belgian Chapter*
- ◆ *April 30 – 5 p.m. – DINNER FOR A CAUSE – 4TH RIZAL QUIZ – Venue DE SCHUUR – Kruibeke*

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Our next Newsletter will be published mid February 2011.

Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to anyone who shows an interest in the Knights of Rizal! They are always welcome at one of our activities.

Also former members who wish to receive again news from our Chapter are free to request to put their email address again on our list. We respect the view of everybody!

Please send suggestions, articles (also from the OTHER BELGIAN CHAPTERS) to the Chapter Commander.

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