

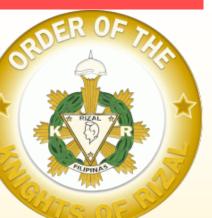
### Issue 29 Volume 5 January 2012

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Introduction
- Membership
- Invitation 12th Charterin Anniversary
- Report KOR Belgium
- Sesquicentennial Sir Lucien
- Calendar
- Next Newsletter
- Board coordinates & members







Diamond Chapter Antwerp—Flanders—Belgium



Knights of Rizal – Diamond Chapter – Jan. 2011

## Introduction

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

Dear friends of our organization,

#### THE KOR DIAMOND CHAPTER WISHES TO ALL ITS MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS: A VERY HEALTHLY, INSPIRATIONAL AND PEACEFUL 2012 SO THAT WE CAN ENJOY A STRONG BROTHERHOOD AND CONTINUE OUR MISSION OF IM-PLEMENTING RIZAL'S IDEALS WHERE EVER WE ARE.

A new year is born, new hope is created and new inspiration is giving us the power to look forward into this year. Plans are made for the summer and we are feeling happy already, just thinking about it, although still plenty work has to be done before we can enjoy it. Now, is also a good moment to stand still a moment and to look back to what we, Knights of Rizal, realized last year.

One year ago, at the same location of the chartering, we could celebrate the 11<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Diamond Chapter with the dubbing of 3 new knights. On top of that, we proudly could elevate 6 knights to Knight Officer because of their active participation to all Rizal events and their never lasting dedication to the Order and to the ideals of Rizal.

It goes without saying that the Knights were also present during the Philippine Independence Day's celebrations in Brussels as well as in Brugge. (report in our Newsletter no. 27)

Last year was a very special year because of a few remarkable birthdays: not only was it the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of national hero, Dr. José Rizal on June 19, at the end of the year, on December 30, it was also 100 year ago that the organization of the Knights started to exist. Both occasions have been celebrated by the Belgian chapters of the Knights of Rizal at the location of

(Continued on page 2)

the Philippine Embassy in Brussel with the much appreciated co-operation of the embassy staff. The day, actually this milestone Rizal year, was closed with a buffet dinner in the company of the ambassador, Mrs. Victoria Bataclan and her husband at the Best Western Hotel. Report of the first event can be found in our Newsletter no. 27 and for the latter, you can read all about it later in this issue.

In springtime and in the fall, traditionally we had our activities, involving a tasteful BBQ followed by an informative Rizal quiz, which can be found on our very own website: <u>www.kniqhtsofrizal.be</u>.

During the last century, Rizal's ideals have been spread and practiced all over the world, and not only by Filipino's, showing the universality of his vision. No wonder there are already more than 10.000 knights worldwide and the number is still growing constantly. With the new technologies we have at our disposal nowadays, like internet, we can easily and freely access the writings of Rizal (cfr <u>www.rizalinfo.net</u>). Many are translated in English/Spanish/Tagalog for a wider spreading over all continents. Just reflect a moment, how Rizal struggled, physically and financially, to have his books published. At that time, not everybody had the opportunity to read his articles and books, either because they were not available to them, or because of the incapability to read. Therefore it is not surprising that one of Rizal's ideals concerned the possibility to learn how to read for everybody. Of course, reading is just the beginning of a wider basic education that everybody should be able to receive, preferably starting at childhood. As Rizal needed sponsors to distribute his ideas, let us help his countrymen to continue to practice his lofty ideals.

Acting accordingly, the Diamond Chapter did not hesitate to response to the appeal from OKOR HQ to become a NINONG TO A SCHOLAR. The money of P 10.000 was handed over by Sir Ronny Felix, during his visit early July 2010, to Sir Reghis Romero II, Acting Supreme Commander. (see Newsletter no. 27, pg 11)

Needless to say that our chapter members are also supporting, in whatever way possible, other organizations with the same goal, like CADATAAN and FRIENDSHIP FOR THE PHILIPPINES.

Let it also be noted that our knight, Sir Peter De Bruyn, wrote his travel story in a book of which the profits will be donated to 2 projects. He will bring his sponsor money himself to the Philippines, during a trip at the end of this year, whereby he will also assist part of the OPERATION SMILE/DENTAL MISSION's combined operation, project coordinated by Sir Geert Verhaegen.

Besides these long term and ongoing projects, sometimes it is necessary to provide assistance after sudden disasters like the destructive typhoon Sendong of last December. Let us all together help by a donation for the victims on Mindanao and parts of the Visayas. The collected amount will be added to the contributions of the Belgian KOR Chapters and send to KOR Headquarters in Manila. It will be used for the reconstruction of the destroyed habitats.

Let us come together at the occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> chartering anniversary of our chapter and re-enforce our brotherhood in a rizalian spirit. Temporary program and details on following pages. Some dedicated members confirmed their presence already. Together with you, we will prove that RIZAL IS ALIVE.

The board is looking forward to welcoming you in De Watermeulen, Kruibeke, on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Till then !!!

Fraternal greetings,

Sir Paul Verloo, KCR Chapter Commander Diamond Chapter - Antwerp

> NOM Board 2010-2012

Sir Paul Verloo, KCR, Chapter Commander Diamond—Antwerp Sir Tony Guansing, KGOR, Regional Commander for Europe Sir Dominiek Segaert, KGOR, Area Commander for Belgium 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 Ronny Felix, KOR, Archivist, Editor newslett

# Lidmaatschap 2012

## Membership fee 2012

Beste vrienden Knights,

Zoals bijna alles duurder wordt, heeft ook OKOR HQ de aan hen verschuldige bedragen met meer dan de helft verhoogd. Daarom zien we ons genoodzaakt om, na lange tijd, ook ons lidgeld te verhogen. Mogen wij er op rekenen dat je bereid bent om **45 EUR** te willen betalen voor je lidmaatschap van 2012?

Wij zouden jullie zeer dankbaar zijn mocht de betaling gebeuren voor eind februari op het gekende rekeningsnummer: IBAN: BE86 9796 0951 3750 ; BIC: ARSPBE2 op naam van KOR DIAMOND CHAPTER – Venneborglaan 90 – 2100 Deurne.

Namens het bestuur wil ik jullie alvast danken voor de hernieuwing en aan de nieuwe Knights voor een hopelijk blijvend engagement voor onze vereniging!

Dank bij voorbaat voor tijdige betaling.

*P.S. Deze uitnodiging geldt uiteraard niet voor diegenen die reeds hebben betaald.* 

#### Dear brother Knights,

As almost everything becomes more expensive, also OKOR HQ increased the dues owned to them with more than half. That is why we are forced, after a long time, to increase our membership fee.

*Can we count on your willingness to contribute* **45** *Eur for your membership 2012?* 

We would be grateful if you could pay before the end of February to our account no. IBAN: BE86 9796 0951 3750 ; BIC: ARSPBE2 of KOR DIAMOND CHAPTER – Venneborglaan 90 – 2100 Deurne.

In the name of the whole board I want to thank you for renewing your membership and to the new Knights I sincerely hope you engage yourself for a very long time in our chapter.

*Thank you in advance for your cooperation in paying the membership fee.* 

*PS Of course for those who paid already, ignore this request.* 



# **INVITATION**

FOR MEMBER AND NON-MEMBERS EVERYBODEY IS WELCOME !

# 12<sup>th</sup> CHARTERING ANNIVERSARY

## DIAMOND CHAPTER – ANTWERP – BELGIUM

### 28 JANUARY 2012

#### VENUE

- ♦ SALONS DE WATERMEULEN Burchtstraat 160 9150 KRUIBEKE
- location: <u>www.watermeulen.be</u>

#### PROGRAM

- Welcome reception starts at 16h00
- Dubbing ceremony of new Knights (KR)
- Elevation to Knight Officer (KOR)
- Exaltation to Knight Commander (KCR)
- Board KOR Diamond 2011-2013
- Toast on the new year
- Rizal program
- Fraternal dinner world buffet with drinks
- Dessert coffee fellowship
- Dancing -- disco

#### PARTICIPATION

- 59,00 Euro member and non-members, buffet dinner, all drinks included till midnight
- Children (4 till 14 year incl.) pay half price.

#### **RESERVATION**

Before Jan.21<sup>st</sup> through confirmation

- to paul.verloo@hotmail.com or GSM: 0486 565 806 or
- to <u>dominiek.segaert@skynet.be</u> GSM: 0479 691 86

#### PAYMENT

We prefer bank transfer to the account of KOR DIAMOND CHAPTER – Venneborglaan 90 – 2100 Deurne IBAN: BE86 9796 0951 3750 BIC: ARSPBE2

## Report

# DECEMBER 30, 2011 – RIZAL DAY 115<sup>TH</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. JOSE RIZAL & 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ORDER KNIGHTS OF RIZAL WORLDWIDE BELGIUM – EUROPE

#### Introduction

The Area Council of the KOR Belgium together with 4 active chapters KOR Aalst, KOR Brussels, KOR Charleroi, KOR Diamond Antwerp and the Kababaihang Rizalista organised in cooperation with the Philippine Embassy after a successful preparation Area Council meeting on Nov. 25, on Dec. 30, 2011 a touching and unforgettable Rizal Day with the commemoration of the 115<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Rizal, sandwiched with the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of KOR worldwide. It was – headed and coordinated by Area Commander Sir Dominiek Segaert, KGOR – an organisation that gave a real Rizal footprint in Belgium where he lived between March 28, 1890 till July 23, 1891, after he moved to Ghent where the famous El Filibusterismo would be printed and published. Rizal Day 2011 in Belgium also was a significant proof of the strength and power of KOR Belgium where at this moment the Rizal spirit is alive and brotherhood between Philippine and Belgian members is deeply appreciated and nourished. Moreover, thanks and with the hands of the Philippine Embassy, headed by newly arrived Ambassador Her Excellency Victoria Bataclan and her devoted staff, we could make from this event something special since we had a wonderful hospitality at the Philippine Embassy and also a cultural program that inspired us with Rizal ideals. A dinner at Best Western finalised the event.

# Chapter 1: Ghent and Brussels with wreath-laying at the Rizal markers

Noon time at Henegouwenstraat in Ghent representatives of KOR Belgium honoured Rizal



Flower offering in Brussels

by flower offering. Agricultural Attaché Mr. Jose Laquian and Attaché Ms. Chona Idul represented the Philippine Embassy flanked by our Honorary Consul General Sir Peter Van Bogaert, KGOR, who is also the Special Adviser to the Supremo in Manila. Same ceremony was held at Rue Philippe De Champagne at the Rizal Marker where the Philippine Embassy was present with Ambassador H.E. Victoria Bataclan, assisted by Consul Christina Gracia Rola and Labor Attaché Rustico Dela Fuente.



Flower offering in Gent

(Continued on page 6)

### Chapter 2: Rizal is alive and Rizal program at Philippine Embassy

#### 2.1. PLUMA

It was Ambassador H.E. Victoria Bataclan who gave at the Bulwagan ng mga Pangulo room the almost 80 participants at Rizal Day the floor to introduce themselves. After that Consul Christina Gracia Rola thanked the Ambassador and gave the introduction and welcome to Sir Dominiek Segaert, KGOR, Area Commander KOR Belgium. At first we looked to and were deeply touched by the docu-dramamovie "Pluma" focused on the life of Rizal.



### 2.2. FLOWER OFFERING RIZAL STATUE GARDEN EMBASSY

After almost one hour the flower offering in front of the Rizal statue at the Philippine Embassy garden started. It was Ambassador H.E. Victoria Bataclan flanked by Area Commander Sir Dominiek Segaert who started the ceremony followed by the representatives of the different chapters.



Flower offering in the Philippine Embassy garden

#### 2.3. OPENING ROBLES PAINTINGS & SPITTAEL-SEGAERT STAMP & MONEY EXHIBITS



**Opening of the René Robles Painting exhibit** 

After the ceremony the René Robles Painting Exhibit on Rizal



The René Robles collection



The stamp and paper money exhibit

was opened at the Hallway at ground floor and the ribbon cutting by Ambassador Bataclan was followed by browsing and enjoying the Rizal paintings. Upstairs, at the Embassy Library and Rizal Room the Ambassador opened the Stamp Exhibit and Paper Money Exhibit Rizal & History of the Philippines prepared by Sir Lucien Spittael, KGOR and Sir Dominiek Segaert, KGOR. The stamp & paper money exhibit was enjoyed by the crowd and inspired some of the KOR to start a Rizal collection.

#### 2.4. RIZAL REMEMBERED

Back at the conference room or Bulwagan ng mga Pangulo Sir Dominiek asked a moment of deep silence for the victims of the typhoon and flooding in the northern region of Mindanao, especially the areas of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan with an invitation to each chapter to help financially the victims. This was followed by the national anthem headed by singer lanne Jocel and the invocation and prayer lead by Sir Johnny Villa of KOR Brussels. An inspirational word or a number was given by Sir Abeth Arevalo, KCR representing KOR Aalst, Sir Antonito Sienes, KCR of KOR Brussels and a delegation of KOR Brussels who sang Philippine



Performance of the KOR Brussels (Continued on page 8)

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songs, Sir Paul Verloo, KCR of KOR Diamond Chapter and Lady Nina Fernandez and her representatives of Kababaihang Rizalista who inspired us with an actual vision on the ideals of Rizal by using the letters of RIZAL DAY, which was found very original by the crowd. Ambassador Victoria Bataclan gave her inspirational message and referred to the values of Dr. Rizal and that his values must never be forgotten and be nourished especially by the youth. The program at the Embassy ended by an extraordinary reading by youngsters of excerpts of the work of Rizal or what had inspired Rizal.

#### 2.5. YOUTH PROGRAM

Excerpts from "Mi Ultimo Adios" were read by Ms. Bataclan, daughter of the Ambassador, followed by Ms. Ianne Jocel who read out of Sa aking mga kababata", parts of "Letter to the Women of Malolos" by Ms. Christine Loreto and Mr. Iannice Loreto, children of Sir Danny & Marylou Berghmans, KOR of KOR Diamond, finalised by "The story of the moth", a story that was during Rizal's childhood told by Rizal's mother and this time read by Ms. Magalie Segaert, the 7 year old daughter of Sir Dominiek & Leah Segaert-Gallego, KGOR, the Area Commander KOR Belgium.



"The story of the moth" by Magalie Segaert

#### 2.6. FINAL & RECEPTION

A frame with an on special paper Xeroxed copy of the civil registrar of Brussels stating the living of Rizal in Brussels 1890p.m.

Sir Dominiek offers a copy of the civil registrar to H.E. Victoria Bataclan

1891 flanked with some rare Rizal post stamps, was offered in the name of the KOR Area Council by Sir Dominiek Segaert, followed by a thank word by Sir Peter Van Bogaert and Sir Lino Paras, who as past area commander KOR finalised the program. Sir Antonio Guansing, KGOR, Regional Commander KOR Europe was excused due to family reasons. After the NOM-sign the reception started. The program ended around 6.30

# Chapter 3: dinner buffet at Hotel Best Western in Brussels with celebration 100 years KOR worldwide

Around 7 p.m. an apero was served in the hall and at the Knights bar of Hotel Best Western. Around 8 p.m. 47 participants joined for a sumptuous dinner buffet. Sir Arevalo of KOR Aalst lead the prayer before the buffet opened. Ms. Ianne Jocel of Brownskinns Music Group together with



**Ms Ianne Jocel** 



A view of the dinner buffet

Sir Cris Pinkihan flowered the evening with Philippine and other songs of pop, jazz, crooners. Sir Dominiek produced his own version of the song My way of Frank Sinatra and dancing a go-go followed. Closing remarks by Sir Dominiek and Ambassador Bataclan ended the beautiful evening a bit before midnight.

Report:

Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KGOR, Area Commander KOR Belgium – 2012-01-12

More pictures on the following pages

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# My Rizal sesquicentennial trip in the Philippines (10<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>

In the current and coming newsletters we will print here a report of Sir Lucien Spittael and his wife Madeline's recent trip to the Philippines where he attended many celebrations for the 150th Birthday of Jose Rizal.



Madeline & Lucien Spittael

#### Part 3

#### 17<sup>th</sup> June:

Early in the morning we departed, with members of NHCP (Mrs. E. Almosara) Mrs. Malou Villaroman, Dr. Renato Perdon (author of Rizal books) and Dr. Consolacion R. Alaras for a 7-hour trip to Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, for the unveiling of a marker on the tallest Rizal statue. This monument was funded by the Jordanian-born Sir Mahmoud Asfour KCR and his Filipina wife. We all spent the night at Sir. Mahmoud's residence by invitation.

#### 18<sup>th</sup> June:

After breakfast we were driven to this magnificent 7.3 hectare complex, located in Barangay Casat, with its huge new monument and 16 metre statue of Rizal, surrounded by arches containing busts of other historical Filipino heroes, including one to the 'unsung' and unknown heroes



Sir Asfour's Rizal statue in Baymbong

Bust Lapu Lapu

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Unveiling marker

Invocation

To my great surprise, I also discovered the grave of a Belgian CICM (Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a missionary Belgian Order who arrived in the area in 1907) in the local cathedral who had been Bishop of Bayombong.



Grave of Bishop Van Overbeke

<text>

Plaque Bishop Van Overbeke

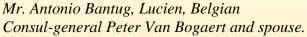
At noon we departed for Manila.

#### 19<sup>th</sup> June:

By 07.00hrs. we were gathered at the Rizal monument at Luneta with the Knights of Rizal, where we were caught by heavy rain. Madeline and I had the honour to be invited for lunch by another Rizal family member, Mr. Antonio Bantug, son of the author of 'Lolo Jose' Mrs. Asuncion Lopez Bantug (descendent of Olimpia). We also met my friend the Honorary Consul-General of the Philippines in Belgium, Sir Peter Van Bogaert KGOR.

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Knights of Rizal

We joined with a number of other Knights of Rizal who laid a rose at the statue of Rizal



One of the 100 red roses



Knights of Rizal

Following this Sir Peter attended a meeting at NHCP with us where we were presented with a memento to take home with us.



Meeting at NHCP

Memento to take home

After lunch with the Bantug family I surprised them with a two hour presentation on Dr. Rizal.

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Rizal presentation

Bantug family

That evening we were invited by the organizer, Mrs. Lisa Bayot, to attend the special Rizal gathering at Fort Santiago. More than 300 family members were present. On the programme was an 'inside-Rizal' story presentation. After the show we tasted the specially-made 'Noli me Tangere' cake.



Chancellor Bismarck?



ARizal family table



Teodora, Rizal, Lucien, Josephine, Madeline Mrs. Lisa Bayot at the Noli cake

Finally, around midnight, Mrs. Lisa Bayot had the courtesy to bring us back to the hotel.

20<sup>th</sup> June:

In the early morning we visited the US Military and Philippine cemeteries.



Luzon campaign

American cemetery

We received a surprise invitation for a lunch at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador where we exchanged some Rizal gifts.



Ambassador Wilhelm Donko, Lolo Jose book

After lunch we visited the Rizal exhibition at the Yuchengko museum where much Rizal memorabilia was on exhibit. That evening we attended the Light and Sound Show at the Luneta and experienced again the beautiful, coloured, dancing fountains.



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#### 21<sup>st.</sup> June:

In the early morning we went to the General Post Office and moved to a hotel nearer UP Diliman, Quezon City. We met finally with Dr. Ma. Chrisanta N. Flores, Conference Director of the International Sesquicentennial Conference; "Rizal in the 21<sup>st.</sup> Century; Local and Global Perspectives". Early that evening we attended the launching of the new edition of Prof. Sichrovsky's biography of Ferdinand Blumentritt.



Mag. Peter Sichrovsky signing the Blumentritt biography

#### 22<sup>nd.</sup> June:

Finally, the Rizal Conference, which was the main objective of our visit to the Philippines, started. The conference opened with the Entrance of the Colours, the singing of the National Anthem, and the processional entrance of the statue of Rizal to the conference room, led by UP President Alfredo Pascual, the Rizal descendants and the conference speakers.



Sir Choy Arnaldo, Mrs. Lisa Bayot (Saturnina), Lucien, Mr. V. Reyes (Saturnina). Mr. M. Gonzales (Saturnina), Mrs. Faustman (Maria) Mrs. A Cruz Araneta (Maria) and a Soledad descendant.

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The conference started with the Entrance of the Colors, singing of the National Anthem followed by the Processional entrance of the statue of Rizal to the conference room. Four Bandoleros solemnly marched into the auditorium with Rizal's statue followed by UP President Alfredo Pascual, the Rizal descendants and the conference speakers.



Raising of the flag by the Bandoleros Bandoleros solemnly marches with Rizal's bust

After the Inspirational Message and the Conference Address I had the honour to deliver my Rizal presentation, as Keynote Speaker, followed by Dr. Syed Faras Alatas from Singapore and Dr. Ambeth Ocampo. During the following days the other plenary speakers were Dr. Yoshiko Nagano from Japan and Dr. Beatriz Alvarez-Tardio. Many other speakers contributed in other sessions. I had some excellent discussions with fellow-Rizalists such as Dr. Ambeth Ocampo and the author of "Rizal, American Hegemony, and Philippine Nationalism: A Nation Aborted" Dr. Floro C. Quibuyan.".



Rizal presentation at UP Diliman auditorium



Dr. Ambeth Ocampo

A special pleasure was my conversation on Rizal with Mrs. Gemma Cruz-Araneta, a descendant of Maria Rizal. Other members of the Rizal family present were: Mrs. Lisa Bayot, Atty. R. Reyes, Mr. Victor Reyes, Mr. M. Gonzales and Mrs. Mia de Faustmann and her daughter (descendents of Maria) and Mrs. Marlene Jacinto (descendant Paciano

# **CALENDAR**

- January 28th: 12th Chartering Anniversary KOR Diamond dubbing new Knights elevation KOR – exaltation KCR – Rizal program – Dinner – Dancing – Salons De Watermeulen - Kruibeke
- March 31st: Activity in "De Schuur" Kruibeke
- June 10th (still to be confirmed): Philippines Independence Day
- June 19th: Birthday of Rizal
- October 27th: Activity in "De Schuur" Kruibeke
- December 30th: Rizal Day

# **NEXT NEWSLETTER**

Our next Newsletter will be published beginning March 2012.

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.

#### THE BOARD OF DIAMOND CHAPTER

Sir Paul VERLOO, KCR – 27 03 5424411 CHAPTER COMMANDER 2011—2013 paul.verloo@hotmail.com
Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KGOR - 28 050 601320 – Mob. 0479 691 865 AREA COMMANDER BELGIUM—Past Chapter Commander 2008—2011 <u>dominiek.segaert@skynet.be</u>
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Sir Danny BERGHMANS, KOR – 28 0488 05 36 03 webmaster@knightsofrizal.be

#### THE MEMBERS

MEMBERS (UPDATE SINCE Jan. 2011)	Sir Pros SLACHMUYLDERS, KGOR, Chartering Commander (Hon. Member)
Sir Albert BIJLOOS, KOR	Sir Fr. Paul ZWAENEPOEL, KCR, (Hon. Member)
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Sir H.E. Christian MEERSCHMAN, KCR (Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium in Manila – Philippines – July 3, 2010) Sir Kris Ortmanns, KCR, Former Chapter Commander	Sir Grégoire VARDAKIS, KCR (Hon. Member )
Sir Pascal Ockermans—Postulant	