



# Newsletter Knights of RIZAL



**Issue 34**

**Volume 6**

**January 2013**

## *SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST*

- **Introduction**
- **Invitation 13th Chartering Anniversary**
- **Membership**
- **Report Rizal Day**
- **Message from Sir Dominiek Segaert**
- **Visit of Ambass. Meerschman to Friendship of the Philippines**
- **Re-enactment of the remains of Dr Rizal**
- **Calendar**
- **Board coordinates & members**

## **Diamond Chapter Antwerp—Flanders—Belgium**



**Knights of Rizal - Diamond Chapter - Jan. 2012**

## **Introduction**

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

*Dear friends of our organization,*

*At the beginning of every calendar year it is appropriate to wish each other*

***A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2013***

*And I have no intention to break this tradition.*

*Another tradition is to celebrate the anniversary of the chartering of our own Diamond Chapter on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of January. This year, this will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month, as we announced already a few times in our previous Newsletter. Many dedicated knights know this, but it surprised me nevertheless that some made their reservations even at the end of last year. On the other hand, the successful combination of delicious food, the beautiful (renewed) venue and the warmth of the brotherhood can only lead but to another memorable gathering. No wonder nobody wants to miss this opportunity.*

*As from 17:00 you are welcome at our reception, followed by the obligatory ceremonies, fraternal dinner, brotherhood and dance. In between you can enjoy, once more, an enactment prepared by the Ladies. More details to be found later in this Newsletter.*

*This year we will continue to support affiliated organizations and our brother Knights of the*

*(Continued on page 2)*



(Continued from page 1)

other Chapters, in Belgium and other European countries. The highlight for this year will be a European Assembly. Place and time still has to be decided but will be announced as soon as known. For those who can participate, it will be a unique opportunity to meet members of the Supreme Council, but also Knights from Chapters from all over the world. Remember that during the past years, several new Chapters were chartered in different countries enforcing the power of this brotherhood.

This will not prevent us to set up our own fund raising activities in order to safeguard our plan to sponsor deserving projects in the Philippines. For that purpose, reserve 13 April in your agenda for a new program. Because this will be your party, the board is open for any suggestions to make this event a milestone for our Chapter.

All these intentions can only become reality with our relentless contributions. As everything becomes more expensive because of the ongoing crisis, I am sorry to announce that we are also obliged to raise our membership fee for this year to Euro 50,00. Please bear in mind that for poor people who do not even have enough for their essential needs, a price increase hits them much more than us.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Fraternal greetings,

Sir Paul Verloo, KCR

Chapter Commander 2011-2013

Deputy Area Commander for Belgium 2012-2014

NOM  
Board 2010-2012

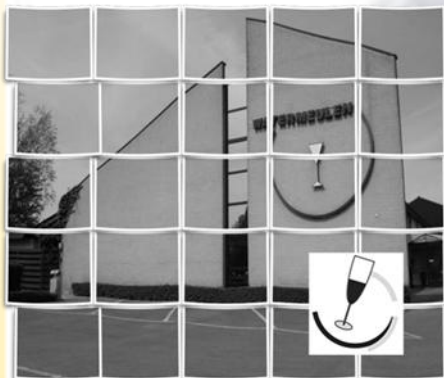
Sir Paul Verloo, KCR, Chapter Commander Diamond—Antwerp  
Sir Tony Guansing, KGOR, Regional Commander for Europe  
Sir Dominiek Segart, KGOR, Area Commander for Belgium  
Sir Peter Van Bogaert, KGOR, Special Adviser to the Supreme Commander Manila  
Sir Kris Van Thillo, KCR, Past Chapter Commander  
Sir Roy De Mol, KCR, Deputy Commander  
Sir Rik Van Tiggel, KCR, Deputy Commander  
Sir Ronny Felix, KCR, Archivist, Editor newsletter  
Sir Danny Vandenbogaerde, KOR



# Order of the KNIGHTS of RIZAL



## *Diamond Chapter – Antwerp - Belgium*



### **Invitation**

### **13th Chartering Anniversary**

*Saturday 26 January 2013*

#### **VENUE**

Salons De Watermeulen – Burchtstraat 160 – 9150 KRUIBEKE – [www.watermeulen.be](http://www.watermeulen.be)

#### **PROGRAM**

17:00 Welcome – reception  
Dubbing ceremony new Knights (KR)  
Elevations to KOR  
Exaltation to KCR  
Toast on the new year  
Inspirational speeches  
Fraternal dinner – world buffet - drinks  
Cultural program  
Dessert – coffee – fellowship  
Dancing – disco

#### **PARTICIPATION**

60,00 Euro per person – children 0 to 6 year: free – children 7 to 12: half price  
Including drinks until 23:30

#### **PAYMENT**

We prefer payment by bank transfer to our account no. 979 6095137 50  
(IBAN: BE86 9796 0951 3750 - BIC: ARSBE22)  
Diamond Chapter Rizal – Venneborglaan 90 – 2100 Deurne

#### **RESERVATIONS**

Please make your reservations through one of the board members below before Sunday 20 January:

[paul.verloo@hotmail.com](mailto:paul.verloo@hotmail.com) – Mobile 0486 565 806

[dominiek.seqaert@skynet.be](mailto:dominiek.seqaert@skynet.be) – Mobile 0479 691 865

## Lidmaatschap 2013

*Beste vrienden Knights,*

*Het is reeds vermeld in de introductie, maar inderdaad wij zijn genoodzaakt op het lidgeld voor 2013 verder te verhogen naar 50 EUR. Hiervan gaat een gedeelte naar Headquarters van de Order of the Knights of Rizal in Manila. Een ander deel is bestemd voor bepaalde onvermijdbare kosten. Toch slagen wij er telkens in om elk jaar minstens 1 lovenswaardig project te steunen. Daarvoor dienen onze activiteiten gedurende het jaar, waarin wij buiten het gezellig samenzijn ook onze kas kunnen spijzen om deze doelstellingen te blijven behalen.*

*Graag jullie bijdrage voor eind februari op het gekende rekeningsnummer: IBAN BE86 9796 0951 3750, BIC: ARSBE22 op naam van KOR DIAMOND CHAPTER – Venneborglaan 90 – 2100 Deurne.*

*Het bestuur bedankt jullie alvast voor je blijvende ondersteuning van onze vereniging. Daarnaast wensen we onze nieuwe knights een hartelijk welkom en hopen hen nog vele malen te mogen begroeten op onze activiteiten.*

## Membership fee 2013

*Dear brother Knights,*

*It is mentioned already in the introduction, but indeed we are obliged to raise the membership fee for 2013 further to 50 EUR. Part of it will be transferred to HQ OKOR in Manila. Another part is destined to cover certain inevitable costs. Nevertheless we succeed to sponsor at least 1 meritorious project. Besides the nice fellowship, our activities during the year are also producing profits in order to keep realizing these goals.*

*Please transfer your contribution to the well-known account no. IBAN BE86 9796 0951 3750, BIC: ARSBE22 in the name of KOR DIAMOND CHAPTER – Venneborglaan 90 – 2100 Deurne.*

*The board thanks you in advance for your continued support to our organization. Furthermore we wish our new Knights a warm welcome and we hope to be able to greet them many times at our activities.*





## RIZAL Day 30th December

Sunday 30th December, different Filipino organizations celebrated the 116<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of the Philippines national hero Dr Jose Rizal in the Philippines Embassy.

Preceding the celebration, there was a small reception with walking lunch. From the KOR, we could welcome representations from the Aalst Chapter, The Charleroi Chapter, the Brussels Chapter and the Diamond Chapter of Antwerp. Amongst the many knights were Sir Lino Paras, KGCR, Sir Rudy Nollas, KGOR and



European Regional Commander, Sir Abeth Arevalo, KCR and Belgian Area Commander, Sir Bhoy Alcoba, KGOR, Sir Anthony Sienes, KCR, Sir Jose Peres, KCR and Brussels Chapter Commander, Sir Jim Rebong, KCR and Aalst Chapter Commander, Sir Mario Fajardo, KCR and Deputy Commander Charleroi and a delegation of Diamond Chapter with Sir Paul Verloo, KCR and Diamond Chapter Commander, Sir Dominiek Segael, KGOR, Sir Lucien Spittaet,



KGOR, Sir Roy Demol, KCR, Sir Ronny Felix, KCR, Sir Danny Vandenberghe, KOR, Sir Kristoff Mortier, KOR, Sir Guy Waterloos, KOR, Sir Dirk Vandeweghe, KOR, Sir Geert Verhaegen, KOR, Sir Julien Kuse, KR, Luc Raes, postulant. Master of ceremony was Sir Johnny Villas, KCR.

The Philippines Embassy was represented by ms Lolita Capco, CDA.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

*Because of the rainy weather, the flower offering ceremony was held within the embassy, followed by the Philippine National Anthem and the Knights of Rizal Hymn.*

*The Belgian Area Commander, Sir Abeth Arevalo, gave the introductory speech, followed by the speeches of the different Chapter Commanders and Lady Maryann Ballesteros, head of the Kababaihang Rizalista Chapter.*

*After the speeches, the different chapters amused the audience with songs, recital of the poem *Mi Ultimo Adios*, from Jose Rizal. The Diamond Chapter showed folk dances performed by the Ladies Mayet Follosa, Gina Navea, Felly Bustamente Facto, Lyleth Ramirez and directed by Phoebe Padilla. The gathering was ended with closing speeches of our European Regional Commander Sir Rudy Nollas, KGOR and by Sir Lino Parras, KGCR and past European Regional Commander.*



# MESSAGE FROM PAST AREA COMMANDER KOR BELGIUM 2010-2012 SIR DOMINIEK SEGAERT, KGOR

*Dear Brother Knights of Rizal in Belgium*

*It is with great gratitude that I write to you a word of thanks and appreciation for the last two years in service as Area Commander KOR Belgium from 2010 till 2012, the moment that my good friend Sir Abeth Arevalo took over the chain of command as your newly chosen Area Commander from the Supreme Council in Manila. For the last two years I can only say that teamwork and spirit following the ideals of Dr. Jose Rizal brought us in Belgium a step further in the achievement of bringing Rizal more to us.*

*Let us glimpse at some moments I really cherished and this all with the support of my wife Leah Gallego and daughter Magalie.*



*During 2010-2012 together with the Area Council of KOR Belgium we prepared and celebrated the 150th anniversary of Rizal with a whole weekend of activities including forums, showing and reflecting on documentaries on Rizal, initiating a Rizal library at the Embassy, bringing Rizal among us by organising the opening of the Rizal Travelling Museum with fashion designer John Ablaza, the première of the docu-film Rizal The First Hero with Gioviani Vicente as actor and inspired by producer Jourdan Sebastian, we organised in 2010 a stamps and paper money exhibit, a gala dinner on the occasion of Rizal Day, we walked in the steps of Rizal by commemorating him in and around the places he lived and stayed in Belgium, we organised activities where we also promoted Filipino culture and spread the "It's more fun the Philippines" motto to inspire people to go and see Philippines and if possible, to touch also the icon Rizal. We organised 6 Area Council Meetings and tried to promote more Rizalism and chivalry among the now 4 active chapters in Belgium: Aalst, Brussels, Charleroi and Diamond.*

*As a member since 1999 I am proud to say that the Area of Belgium, according to our Supreme Commander Sir Reghis Romero, who I met last summer 2012, is the most active and expanding Area in Europe and surely one of the most active worldwide. I repeat: surely one of the most active worldwide.*

*In this I thank also my mother chapter KOR Diamond, who have always been very supportive and could attract every year new really interested and devoted Knights of which some of them are really exemplary to the KOR in general.*

*We know we can do better and we can achieve goals in different ways but let us not forget that even the most small thing we can mean for every human being in need and respect him/her in dignity, we are doing what Rizal would have done:*

*(Continued on page 8)*



*(Continued from page 7)*

*giving the light to the others.*

*KOR is not about medals or ranks, it is in the first place chivalry, brotherhood, friendship, sharing the bread with one and another.*

*I salute you from the bottom of my heart and wish KOR Belgium good luck in the hands of Sir Albert Arevalo, KCR and our new Regional Commander Sir Rudy Nollas, KGOR, who following the footsteps of Sir Antonio Guansing, KGOR, will guide us further in Europe. And prosperity to our beloved Chapters in Belgium. I especially greet the board of KOR Diamond Sir Paul, our very motivated Chap Comm., Sir Peter Van Bogaert, our Honorary Consul General, Sir Antonio Guansing, Hon Con Gen, Sir Ronny, Sir Rik, Sir Roy, Sir Kris and our new board member Sir Danny Vandenbogaerde.*

*Non Omnis Moriar!*

*Happy and Strong 2013!*

*Yours sincerely*

*Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KGOR*

*Past Area Commander KOR Belgium, Europe 2010-2012*

*Past Chapter Commander KOR Diamond Chapter, Antwerp 2008-2011*

*Distinguished Service Medal KOR*

*Knight of the Crown Kingdom of Belgium*



## AMBASSADOR H.E. CHRISTIAN MEERSCHMAN AND 10 YEARS FRIENDSHIP FOR THE PHILIPPINES

Last August 15, 2012 Ambassador H.E. Christian Meerschman visited the small Belgian NGO project Friendship for the Philippines on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. Mr. Dominiek & Leah Segaert-Gallego, based in Knokke-Heist and every summer two months in Padada and Davao City in Davao del Sur, started the project with a group of 15 volunteers of Knokke-Heist to support the street children home Balay Pasilungan at Bankerohan in Davao City and Saint Michael's School of Padada. On September 23, Friendship for the Philippines/Vriendschap voor de Filippijnen organised on the occasion of 10 years an academic session at Cultural Centre in Knokke-Heist and a barbecue with fundraising and cultural Philippine program "It's more fun in the Philippines". During the activity a filmed message of H.E. Christian Meerschman and an impression with update of the project was shown for almost 300 participants.



The project started in school year 2002-2003, year that high school teacher Mr. Dominiek Segaert, worked as a voluntary teacher at Saint Michael's School of Padada at the High School Department for the subjects Philippine History (!), English, philosophy. During that time he and his wife, backed by a small starting group in Knokke-Heist started the idea for supporting the school and street youth foundation in upgrading the facilities (school: black boards, furniture, school supplies, computers, covered court, library, books and a scholarship program for the poorest but motivated students; street youth home: installing new toilets, showers, learning rooms, upgrading sleeping rooms, building of a professional bakery, hobby rooms).

In the last 10 years the small NGO worked out new classrooms, provided black boards, computers, books, co-financed covered court, the school library and has provided scholarships for Saint Michael's school Padada and has plans



to sponsor some other small schools in remote areas in Davao del Sur. As for Balay Pasilungan the organisation financed a bakery, sleeping rooms, sanitary facilities, bikes, clothes, school books and a yearly outing to Samal Island with whole day program for the children and youth.

(Continued on page 10)

The Ambassador was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the teachers and principal of Saint Michael's School of Padada, Sister Elnora Tapanan, who thanked Friendship for the Philippines for the support the last 10 years. Also Brother George Kemmet, Marianis, originally from the United States, and currently director of Balay Pasilungan, lauded the support. A cultural program for Ambassador Meerschman and Mr. & Mrs. Segaert was given as a sign of appreciation by the street youth who have a safe shelter, go to school every day and get warmth and support in providing four times a day meals, organising activities and providing them also tools for helping them to work when they are older and working in re-integrating the children into their families where this is possible.

For the 10 years of 'carrying' this project Mr. Dominiek Segaert was awarded by King Albert II of Belgium through Ambassador H.E. Christian Meerschman. This happened during a lunch and meeting with a delegation of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Makati, hosted by the Ambassador himself. Besides



staff of the Belgian Embassy (see pictures) John Ablaza and Giovanni Vicente were among the guests. Ablaza is a famous fashion designer and founder of the Rizal Travelling Museum, in June during 1 week in Belgium at the Philippine Embassy and also actor Giovanni Vicente, who played the role of the Philippine National Hero Dr. Jose Rizal in the movie "Rizal the first hero", that came into premiere in Belgium.

Further among the guests after the awarding in Makati with Ambassador H.E. Christian Meerschman, Mr. Jozef Naudts, 1st secretary, Mr. Jan Verbeeck, Consul & Deputy Chief of Mission, Mrs. Anne Bloemen, Mrs. Leah Segaert-Gallego, Magalie Segaert, H.E. Jozef Rychtar, Czech Ambassador, Mr. John Ablaza, fashion designer and founder of Rizal Travelling Museum, Mr. Giovanni Vicente, actor of Philippine National Hero Dr. Jose Rizal in "Rizal The First Hero", Sir Reghis Romero, KGCR, Supreme Commander Knights of Rizal, and a delegation of the Department of Foreign Affairs: Mrs. Angelina Catalina, Head of School for Diplomats, Mrs. Kristine Leilani Salle, Director Northern & Western Europe and Mrs. Laura Quiambao-Del Rosario, Undersecretary for International Economic Relations.

Friendship for the Philippines is supported by some schools in Knokke-Heist and Brugge and some chapters of the service clubs Lions, Kiwanis, Soroptimist and Knights of Rizal. The visit of Ambassador H.E. Christian Meerschman was a huge support in the future plans of Friendship. They want to support further in school facilities in some other small schools in remote areas in Davao del Sur and in further assisting Balay Pasilungan.

More news and a short history of Friendship for the Philippines on [www.vvfilippijnen.be](http://www.vvfilippijnen.be) where there are also pictures of the last barbecue 10 years Friendship taken by Sir Kristoff Mortier, KOR.

Currently the site is still in Dutch but in a few weeks from now the site will also be in English.



# **A hero proclaimed -A mother's wish fulfilled**

by Sir Carlos Arnaldo, KGOR  
deputy supreme exchequer

*Last December 30th 2012, there was a re-enactment of the transfer of the urn with the remains of Dr Jose Rizal from his mother's home in Binondo to the base of his monument at the Luneta Park, known in 19th century as Bagumbayan. Sir Choy Arnaldo also participated to this re-enactment and wrote a report about it. You can click the link to the full report, which can be found in the Munting Nasyon magazine: [http://www.mnnetherlands.com/dir/\\_page/102372/](http://www.mnnetherlands.com/dir/_page/102372/)*



*The original ceremony for the transfer of the mortal remains of dr Rizal*



*The re-enacted ceremony with Sir Reghis Romero at the Left*

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## CALENDAR

- ♦ *January 26th 2013: 13th Chartering Anniversary Diamond Chapter—De Watermeulen—Kruibeke*
- ♦ *13th April: Rizal Garden Party (At the house of Sir Peter De Bruyn in Aalter)*

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

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*Our next Newsletter will be published in March 2013.*

*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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## THE BOARD OF DIAMOND CHAPTER

<p>Sir Paul VERLOO, KCR – ☎ 03 5424411 CHAPTER COMMANDER 2011–2013 <a href="mailto:paul.verloo@hotmail.com">paul.verloo@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p>Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KGOR - ☎ 050 601320 – Mob. 0479 691 865 PAST AREA COMMANDER BELGIUM 2010_2012 — PAST CHAPTER COMMANDER 2008—2011 <a href="mailto:dominiek.segaert@skynet.be">dominiek.segaert@skynet.be</a></p>
<p>Sir Peter VAN BOGAERT, KGOR – ☎ 03 3257116 ADVISER – TRUSTEE – SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE SUPREME COMMANDER <a href="mailto:pb.vanbogaert@skynet.be">pb.vanbogaert@skynet.be</a></p>
<p>Sir Tony GUANSING, KGOR – ☎ 03 2191491 TRUSTEE – REGIONAL COMMANDER FOR EUROPE, LIFE TIME MEMBER <a href="mailto:quansing@telenet.be">quansing@telenet.be</a></p>
<p>Sir Kris VAN THILLO, KCR – ☎ 03 6664385 CO-SECRETARY – PAST CHAPTER COMMANDER <a href="mailto:krimas@telenet.be">krimas@telenet.be</a></p>
<p>Sir Roy DE MOL, KCR – ☎ 03 5419482 EXCHEQUER – DEPUTY COMMANDER <a href="mailto:roydemol@skynet.be">roydemol@skynet.be</a></p>
<p>Sir Rik VAN TIGGEL, KCR – Mob. 0475 763663 DEPUTY COMMANDER &amp; CO-CHANCELLOR <a href="mailto:rik@vantiqgel.eu">rik@vantiqgel.eu</a></p>
<p>Sir Ronny FELIX, KCR – ☎ 03 252 77 81 - Mob. 0473 491 482 ARCHIVIST - LAYOUT &amp; CO-EDITOR NEWSLETTER <a href="mailto:felilong@gmail.com">felilong@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>Sir Danny VANDENBOGAERDE, KOR - Mob. 0478 420 404 <a href="mailto:danny.vandenbogaerde@telenet.be">danny.vandenbogaerde@telenet.be</a></p>

<p>Sir Kristoff Mortier, KOR – Mob. 0486929628 <i>Webmaster</i> <a href="mailto:kristoff.mortier@gmail.com">kristoff.mortier@gmail.com</a></p>
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## THE MEMBERS

MEMBERS (UPDATE SINCE Jan. 2011)	
Sir Lucien Spittaet, KGOR	Sir Pros SLACHMUYLDERS, KGOR, Chartering Commander (Hon. Member)
Sir Frank VAN OVERLOOP, KOR	Sir Francois Ooms, KGOR
Sir Marc WOUTERS, KR	Sir Dirk VANDEWEGHE, KOR
Sir Gert MEEUWSEN, KOR	Sir Geert VERHAEGEN, KOR
Sir Hugo SPEELMANS, KOR	Sir Kris Ortmanns, KCR, Former Chapter Commander
Sir Rudy LUYCKX, KOR	Sir Frankie VERCAMMEN, KOR
Sir Dirk WIEME, KOR	Sir Eric BORGHUIS, KOR
Sir Sylvain HERREMANS, KOR	Sir François VERRIJT, KR
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Sir Gerard VAN POPPEL, KR	Sir Dennis VAN DESSEL, KR
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Sir Fr. BAGO, KCR (Hon. Member)	Sir Roland VAN REMOORTELE, KCR (Hon. Member)
Sir H.E. Christian MEERSCHMAN, KCR (Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium in Manila – Philippines – July 3, 2010)	Sir Grégoire VARDAKIS, KCR (Hon. Member )
Sir Julien Kusé, KR	Sir Fr. Paul ZWAENEPOEL, KCR, (Hon. Member)