



# Newsletter Knights of RIZAL



**Issue 37**

**Volume 6**

**June 2013**

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



© Sir Kristoff Mortier

**Knights of Rizal - Diamond Chapter - Jan. 2013**

## **Introduction**

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

*Dear friends of our organization,*

*In our previous Newsletter, we announced a few activities of other Philippine Organizations. Some of our member Knights also attended one or more of these events and without exceptions they enjoyed the evening. Sir Dirk spontaneously expressed his emotions in an e-mail to the organizers of the Masquerade & Fashion Show in Edegem, GPK Palawenian of Europe , and appreciated the various acts of which some he saw some for the first time. Besides originality he was happily surprised by the enthusiasm of the Pilipino people, their families and friends. Not only the grown-ups, but even the children, starting from a very young age, were part of the success of the evening. And, a success it was, in that way that the venue was really packed and that there was never a dull moment as the acts succeeded themselves swiftly. Together with Sir Dirk and his family, also Sir Willy, Sir Ronny and I, together with our respective spouses witnessed it and we only could agree with him. Prove to be found in their photo album on facebook of Gkp Palawenian.*

*Another announced event was the concert in Bruges of Tagsibol, a spring classical concert presented by MGA Diwata Unlimited, attended by Sir Dominiek and his wife Leah. Again, it was very much appreciated by the fans of this genre and we will keep you informed about their future performances in Belgium.*

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The main part of this issue however, will be occupied by reports of several knights of our chapter who participated at parts of the European visit of our Supreme Commander, Sir Reghis Romero II accompanied by other members of the Supreme Council. His tour started in Prague mid May and ended in Paris at the end of the same month, visiting interesting historical places and holding Area Assemblies in Czech Republic, Germany, Belgium and France. There will be a special publication by OKOR Headquarters completely dedicated to this unforgettable and eventful trip.

As Jose Rizal was striving for recognition and respect for human dignity for his countrymen, what eventually resulted in the Independence of the Philippines, it was appropriate that we, as Knights of Rizal presented ourselves during these celebrations in Bruges and Brussels. Thus, so we did, showing the Filipino community that their national hero is still very much alive in our minds. Congratulations to the organizers and volunteers of these festivities for bringing so many people together.

The A Cappella Manila choir will show their talents on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at the St. Rémy church by bringing international popular songs. The proceeds will be used for projects of the Area Council for Belgium of the Order of the Knights of Rizal, who organizes the event. Tickets at 10,00 euro are available via your chapter commander until the start of the program.

Via this way I wish to express my greatest gratitude to all our dedicated Knights of the Diamond Chapter, who are always numerously present at the important Rizal activities.

After the summer vacation, we engage ourselves again to support worthy initiatives in the Philippines by organizing and participating in fundraising activities, starting on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> with the “vriendschapsbbq” of the Vriendschap van de Filippijnen in Knokke-Heist, where we fully support our former chapter commander Sir Dominiek and his wife Leah. More details further in this issue. On Saturday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, we come together again in our, in the meantime, familiar place in Kruibeke, De Schuur, for another fellowship and instructive presentation about Rizal and his mother country.

While you are reading this newsletter, you can listen to the pinoy internet radio via [www.pinoyradiobenelux.com](http://www.pinoyradiobenelux.com) and to get a better idea how the Philippines looked like at the time of Rizal, I can recommend you the facebook page of: Pearl of the Orient: Discover Old Philippines with close to sixteen thousand like-its and growing quickly. Almost daily new pictures are added.

I wish all of you a very joyful summer vacation and when you have the time, read about Rizal, perhaps starting with the extensive articles on our website [www.knightsofrizal.be](http://www.knightsofrizal.be) or follow us on the Order of the Knights of Rizal – Diamond Chapter – official facebook page for some of the latest newsflashes.

NON ONMIS MORIAR

Sir Paul Verloo, KCR  
Distinguished Service Medal

Chapter Commander 2011-2013  
Deputy Area Commander for Belgium 2012-2014

NON OMNIS MORIAR

NOM  
Board 2012-2013

Sir Paul Verloo, KCR, Chapter Commander Diamond—Antwerp  
Sir Tony Guansing, KGOR, Trustee, Past Regional Commander for Europe  
Sir Dominiek Segaert, KGOR, Past Area Commander for Belgium  
Sir Peter Van Bogaert, KGOR, Advisor & Trustee  
Sir Kris Van Thillo, KCR, Past Chapter Commander  
Sir Roy De Mol, KCR, Exchequer, Deputy Commander  
Sir Rik Van Tiggel, KCR, Deputy Commander  
Sir Ronny Felix, KCR, Archivist, Editor newsletter  
Sir Danny Vandenbogaerde, KOR, Chancellor

# Supreme Commander Sir Reghis Romero II on visit in Europe

Article provided by Sir Paul Verloo, KCR

Following the program and ceremonies in Prague during the weekend of 17-19 May, the delegation of the Order of the Knights of Rizal Headquarters took the opportunity to visit and have Assemblies in several other European cities. First logical stop on the schedule coming from the Czech Republic was Heidelberg in Germany. A report, written by our Sir Francois Ooms, KGOR, depicting in details the activities of our German brother Knights can be found on the next pages.

After touring in Germany, Belgium was the next country on the list. We all know the history of Jose Rizal in our country, but in Eeklo, Sir Lucien Spittaël, KGOR, possesses such a great number of books from and about Rizal on top of other Rizalian memorabilia, that the supreme commander could not resist the invitation to see and touch it all by himself. All about this unique opportunity for this selected group can be read in the following articles.

On Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, it was time to move on to Brussels, where the Philippine guests, accompanied by a dozen knights from the Belgian Chapters, had a courtesy call in the Embassy in the afternoon. After a warm welcome from Ambassador Victoria Bataclan and her personnel, her Excellency showed an extensive knowledge of the history of Rizal in Belgium during her speech. Before dinner, offered by Sir Lino Paras, KGCR, in his place, an inevitable small site seeing tour in our capital took place.

The next day, Friday, flower offerings at the Rizal markers in Brussels and Ghent filled the agenda for the daytime, whereas the evening was reserved for a Belgian Area Assembly and Ceremonies in the luxurious Marriott Courtyard Hotel in Brussels. The weather gods seemed to be on strike as it was a cold, windy and rainy day. While waiting for the last participating knights to arrive in the Rue Philippe de Champagne, people from the house opposite the marker (Huis van het Nederlands) invited them inside to shelter for the rain. Not knowing what it was all about, some presumed that Sir Reghis was the president of an unknown country. Rizalania perhaps? It was a good opportunity to update the local workers about the person whose marker they are facing every day. At a similar ceremony in Ghent, in the Henegouwenstraat, the weather turned even for the worse, as if something wanted us to feel parts of the sufferings that Rizal had to endure during his stay in these Belgian cities. Luckily for us, we could find a nice warm place around the corner where we consumed a tasteful late lunch after which it was time to return to Brussels for the Assembly.

Our previous Chapter Commander, Sir Dominiek Segaert, KGOR, will tell you the full story of this evening event in his report that can be found further.

Saturday was the day for a historical sightseeing tour to Bruges and Antwerp. After a late start, the passengers of the three cars assembled at the Belfry on the Grote Markt. Awaiting the opening of the Holy Blood Chapel, the company had lunch at the terrace of the restaurant at the corner of the Burg, with the Magnificent City Hall in plain view.



Before leaving the by UNESCO protected center of Bruges, of course we had to see the venerated relic of the Holy Blood allegedly collected and brought from the Holy Land by Thierry of Alsace, Count of Flanders. The basilica has been built between 1134 and 1157 and consists of a lower and upper chapel. The latter one has been

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renovated several times over the years.

It was already late afternoon when we reached Antwerp. There was not much time left before our next scheduled item so that the stay was limited to a quick visit to the diamond area, close to the impressive and classified Central Station. Needless to say that our Antwerp chapter is named after this shiny mineral for which this city is world famous. At this point, Sir Kristoff Mortier, who was with us during the past two day, parted to go back to join his family. Hereby I want to thank him, our photographer, our webmaster, our very active facebooker, in short our dedicated brother Knight.

The Belgian visit of our supreme commander's group was closed with a dinner at the WOK restaurant in Zemst in the presence of many Knights from the 4 Belgian Chapters, the Kababaihang Rizalistas and the Damas de Rizal.

The next day, our Filipino visitors were leaving for Paris, the last stage of their European tour.

I sincerely hope there will be another more relaxed occasion for them to visit more remarkable places in Belgium and Europe. It was a real honor to have had the chance to meet the members of the Supreme Council and their co-travelers.

Finally, I also want to express my appreciation to Sir Peter Van Bogaert, who was our chauffeur during these three days and to Sir Tony Guansing for his company and valuable input in this event.

Hopefully many of us will be able to attend the next European Assembly which is planned for next year and meet many Knights of other European Chapters, which are growing quickly.

Sir Paul Verloo, KCR

Chapter Commander 2011-2013

Deputy Area Commander for Belgium 2012-2014



# **Diamond Chapter Members support Supreme Council Visit to Europe.**

**May 2013**

*Article provided by Sir Francis Ooms, KGOR.*

*Following a restful four-day sojourn in the beautiful and historic city of Prague, the Supreme Council party departed for Heidelberg and Wilhelmsfeld about mid-day on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Having been requested by Sir Peter Plückebaum, KGOR, Bonn to help provide logistics support for the party, Sir Francois, KGOR & Lady Minda Ooms formed part of the welcoming party for the Supreme Council group on arrival to their accommodation in the sylvan setting of Schriesheim, near Wilhelmsfeld.*

*The Supreme Council travelling party was comprised of Sir Rhegis Romero II KGCR, Supreme Commander, Lady Judy Savares, President Kababaihang Rizalista, Angeles City, Sir Dave Santos, KGOR, Supreme Exchequer, Sir Choy Arnaldo, KGOR, Deputy Supreme Exchequer and Sir Mark Boada, Special Assistant to the Supreme Commander.*

*The following morning the visiting group enjoyed breakfast, presided over by the Area Commander for Germany, Sir Celso Lacuna, KGOR and his wife, Lady Helen and were joined by the Chapter Commander of Wilhelmsfeld/Heidelberg, Sir Werner Filsinger and his wife Lady Rosalie with their daughter Raquel & granddaughter Patricia, Sir Rainer Weber with his wife and several other Knights from Germany.*

*Following breakfast the Germany Assembly was launched and, having had lunch, the entire party travelled the short journey to the Rizal Park in Wilhelmsfeld to pay their respects. The Mayor of Wilhelmsfeld, Hans Zellner, welcomed all the guests and was presented with the Distinguished Service Cross by the Supreme Commander.*

*Flower Offerings were then laid at the statue of the National Hero of the Philippines in the park and the party moved to the Ullmer house on Rizal Strasse where Rizal lodged with the family of Pastor Ullmer. Sir Rainer Weber gave a short presentation outlining the history of the house and the local drinking-fountain that is now in Manila in Rizal Park, having been presented by the town of Wilhelmsfeld.*

*The entire group then returned to Schriesheim to complete the Assembly, Sir Celso Lacuna was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Sir Rainer Weber was, most deservedly, exalted to Knight Grand Officer of Rizal. The Assembly being completed, we retired for dinner which was followed by some very pleasant wine-tasting in a local vineyard, which Sir Peter had kindly organised. Finally, we returned to our hotel for some well-earned rest.*

*On Wednesday morning a sight-seeing tour of Heidelberg was organised to the many places and plaques marking the locations associated with Dr. Rizal during his stay in the Odenwald area.*

*Our planned departure for Belgium that afternoon was delayed due to a car malfunction. As a result, our arrival to the house of Sir Lucien Spittaël, KGOR and Lady Madeline in Eeklo was after 9.00pm. This*

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visit had not been included in the original itinerary, but had been inserted at the express, personal request of the Supreme Commander, who wished to see and experience for himself the extensive Rizalian library and collection of other Rizaliana held by Sir Lucien. Unfortunately, the Supreme Commander arrived one hour later than us at Sir Lucien's home, due to a navigation error. The '**little museum of Rizal**' in Eeklo was a major and very pleasant surprise for our visitors and they were even more surprised at his extensive and great depth of knowledge and the years of work carried out by Sir Lucien on the life, writings and work of the National Hero of the Philippines. A superb meal was provided for all members of the party by Lady Madeline, despite the late hour.

To compensate for the very late hour, we all retired after 2.00am, the party slept late on Thursday morning. We had been very kindly and generously offered brunch at Sir Lucien's, as the Supreme Commander wished to spend further time examining his Rizalian collections. It was late on Thursday noon when the party eventually said their 'Good Byes' and continued their trip to Brussels and Paris. Unfortunately, we were unable to join them for the rest of the programme in those two magnificent cities, due to prior commitments.

**Sir Francois Ooms KGOR**

# Visit of Supreme Commander, Sir Reghis Romero II, KGCR and three Members of the Supreme Council to Eeklo.

*This article was provided by Sir Lucien Spittaël, KGOR*

31st May 2013

The Supreme Commander accompanied by Sir Dave Santos, KGOR, Supreme Exchequer, Sir Choy Arnaldo, KGOR, Deputy Supreme Exchequer, Sir Mark Boada, KCR, Special Assistant to the Supreme Commander and Lady Judy Savares made the first stop of their visit to Belgium in Eeklo.



The Supreme Commander honored Sir Lucien Spittaël, KGOR, and his wife Lady Madeline, with a visit to his home, where he arrived late in the evening of Wednesday 22nd May 2013. On arrival they were served finger-food as a kind of late merienda following which they made a visit to Sir Lucien's special Rizal and Filipiniana room where his Rizalian library and many uncommon, Rizal-related, documents are located. Dinner was served at midnight for the entire party, which included Sir Francois Ooms, KGOR, his wife Lady Minda and Sir Peter Plückebaum, KGOR, followed by an open conversation/discussion until after 1.30am. Sir Lucien then accompanied the party to their hotel in Eeklo.

The following morning Sir Lucien collected his visitors at their hotel and they enjoyed a special breakfast at his home. The Supreme Commander then spent some further hours examining Sir Lucien's Rizalian collection and was shown some very special and rare original Rizalian books. A lengthy Rizal-related conversation followed.



decorating Sir Lucien's garden.



The Supreme Commander and Members of the Supreme Council expressed their extreme gratitude for being able to experience the quality and great extent of Sir Lucien's Rizalian library and his Rizalian collection, including the 150th.anniversary tarpaulins

It was well after noon when a very satisfied Supreme Council party left to continue their trip to Brussels.

Sir Lucien Spittaël



# SUCCESSFUL GALA-DINNER WITH SUPREMO SIR REGHIS ROMERO KGCR AT MARRIOTT COURTYARD BRUSSELS

*This article was provided by Sir Dominiek Segaert, KGOR*

*The superb highlight of the visit to the Kingdom of Belgium by Supreme Commander Sir Reghis Romero, KGCR, was surely the beautiful organized Gala-evening with Rizal-program on Friday May 24, 2013 at Marriot Courtyard Hotel in Evere near NATO. It need to be said that the Area Council KOR Belgium, lead by the vibrant Sir Albert Arevalo, KCR, brought a nice program and dinner to welcome the Supremo.*

*After the invocation lead by Rev. Fr. Raymond Gaspar, Chaplain Filipino Chaplaincy the group of around 70 participants sung the national anthems of the Philippines and Belgium followed by the pledge of allegiance guided by Sir Generoso Rebong, KCR, Aalst Chapter Commander. Through video coverage the whole KOR-group sung the KOR Hymn followed by the Call to Order by Sir Felino Paras, KGCR and Special Assistant to the Supremo. Among the guests – introduced by Sir Antonio Guan-sing, KGOR, Past KOR Regional Commander Europe for two terms and Honorary Consul – we spotted Sir Dave Santos, KGOR, Supreme Exchequer, Sir Carlos Arnaldo, KGOR, Deputy Supreme Exchequer, Sir Angel Palomar, KGOR, Sir Peter Van Bogaert, KGOR, Honorary Consul General and of course Sir Rudy Nollas, KGOR, Regional Commander Europe, Sir Bhoy Alcoba, KGOR, Past Area Commander KOR Belgium, Sir Lucien Spittaet, KGOR and Sir Dominiek Segaert, KGOR, Past Area Commander KOR*



*Belgium, who also acted as Master of Ceremonies the whole evening.*

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Further in the program there were messages of Sir Albert Arevalo, KCR, Sir Felino Paras, KGCR, Sir Carlos Arnaldo, KGOR. Our very own Chapter Commander Sir Paul Verloo, KCR and currently also Deputy Area Commander KOR Belgium, spoke about Rizal in the Modern World and his speech can be found also on our website [www.knightsofrizal.be](http://www.knightsofrizal.be), always updated by our webmaster and photographer Sir Kristoff Mortier, KOR. After intermission numbers with ethnic dances by Kababaihang Rizalista and Las Damas de Rizal Sir Rodolfo Nollas, KGOR talked about "How do we make Rizal alive today in our groups, families and community".

A sumptuous buffet was waiting for the participants. The food was blessed by Rev. Father Jorgedy Bago of the Filipino Catholic Community Antwerp. Later Sir Reghis Romero, KGCR, our very own Supreme Commander was introduced by Sir Dave Santos, KGOR. Sir Romero referred to the values and teachings of Rizal and especially took the opportunity to open the discussion to promote Rizalism among the youth and the plans of KOR International Headquarters to bring Rizal more to the



**Sir Reghis Romero receives a special plaque of appreciation and a special frame with rare stamps of Rizal**

international focus. He referred to the youth assemblies in which Rizal's visions are projected.

After his speech Sir Rodolfo Nollas, KGOR, Regional Commander for Europe and Sir Albert Arevalo, KCR, Area Commander KOR Belgium gave a special plaque of appreciation to the Supreme Commander and the recommendation, read by Sir Dominiek Segart, KGOR, mentioned the gratitude of KOR Belgium to Sir Romero. Immediately after this surprise, Sir Dominiek Segart, KGOR, Past Area Commander KOR Belgium and Past Chapter Commander KOR Diamond Antwerp, offered in the name of the Area Council of Belgium a special frame with rare and post fresh stamps of Rizal. The frame gave the highlights

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in the life of Rizal in the Philippines and in Belgium with short historic remarks. Touched by the two presents, Sir Romero, requested all Knights for picture taking and shooting this historic event.



**Sir Paul Verloo received the Distinguished Service Medal**

The evening ended by the giving of a certificate of recognition to Lady Judy Savares, European Adviser of Las Damas de Rizal, followed by awarding the Distinguished Service Medal to Sir Antonieto Sienes, KCR, Sir Paul Verloo, KCR, Sir Generoso Rebong, KCR, Sir Cipriano Reyes, KCR, Sir Maximo Villaroman Jr., KCR, the Distinguished Service Star Medal to Sir Albert Arevalo, KCR, Sir Cesar Alcoba, KGOR, Sir Mario Fajardo, KCR, the Distinguished Service Cross Medal to Sir Peter Van Bogaert, KGOR and Sir Rodolfo Nollas, KGOR.



**Sir Peter Van Bogaert receives the Distinguished Service Cross Medal from Sir Reghis Romero**

*An unforgettable evening! That's for sure!*

*The other Knights of the Diamond Chapter present were:*

*Sir Roy Demol, KCR  
Sir Ronny Felix  
Sir Danny Vandembogaerde  
Sir Lucien Spittaet  
Sir Kristoff Mortier  
Sir Dirk Vandeweghe  
Sir Guy Waterloos  
Sir Geert Verhaegen*

*Dominiek Seghaert, KGOR*



# *Order of the Knights of Rizal*

*Diamond Chapter – Antwerp – Belgium*

*Speech delivered by Sir Paul Verloo*

**Belgian Area Assembly**

**Marriott Courtyard, Brussels, 24 May 2013.**

*Sir Reghis Romero II, KGCR, Supreme Commander,  
Sir Diosdado Santos, KGOR, Supreme Exchequer  
Sir Choy Arnaldo, KGOR, Deputy Supreme Exchequer  
Sir Mark Boado, KR,  
Lady Judy Savares, President of the Kababaihang Rizalista of Angeles City,  
Brother Knights of Rizal,  
Ladies,  
Honored guests,  
Dear friends,*

## **Rizal in the Modern World**

*Complaining, criticizing is easy, it is, or becomes a natural habit in our modern world. It is also a way to release some of our frustration about things that are not going the way we want. But, in most of these cases it concerns merrily about personal discomfort and rarely about real essential matters of survival. Nowadays we are spoiled with material goods which are supposed to make our lives easier so that we have more time to spend on social and cultural activities. Unfortunately, in many cases, these material goods, or the lack of it, makes us more often unhappy and sometimes prevent us to pay attention to the less privileged amongst us.*

*Saying NO to changes is another natural human reaction, even when we do not agree with the present, because we fear to lose a familiar situation or because we do not want to stir up the actual order of the society.*

*Jose Rizal, as did most of his fellow countrymen, realized that the social order in their country was unfair and unjust, but **he** dared to come out of his comfort zone by writing his first novel; Noli Me Tangere. He took even a bigger deliberate risk by publishing his second book, El Filibusterismo and to do so, again, he had to undergo the sufferings of hunger, cold, deprivation and discouragement.*

*With the help of his mother, he learned to read and to write at a very young age, which gave him the opportunity, later, among other things, to study the writings about the original local island people before the arrival of the Spanish colonists. Also had he the change to experience the liberal way of life in several European countries during this studies. The more he travelled and studied the different communities, the more he got convinced that it was a real necessity to give the people of LAS ISLAS FILIPINAS the lives they deserve based on historical rights. He did not demand an independent country, but simply that his people were considered as equal human beings with representation in the Cortes and that they would be no longer humiliated by the Spanish occupants.*

Convincing people what NOT TO WANT is simple, but if you want to make changes you have to come with something which is better and not simply different. How can we improve ourselves? **Understanding** other peoples, through their history, their languages, their traditions, their religion, their relationship to other groups, as well as common sense helps to avoid making previously made mistakes, but you need to convince the correct persons with a concrete plan. This plan must be the result of a thorough preparation based on a long, in depth learning process. Despite the increasing spreading of **knowledge** in these modern times, the following saying is still valid: History repeats itself. Looking at the news broadcastings on television reminds us every day of this unfortunate fact. Therefore we definitely need to continue to propagate the ideals of Dr. Jose Rizal. The facilities to our disposal to do so, are exponentially growing, not at the least thanks to the latest developments of communication technologies during the past decades. This makes **education** easier and faster but at the same time also more complicated and more confusing. As Knights of Rizal, it is our duty to take care that the legacy of this exceptional hero is put in its right perspective and passed on to the next generation to ensure that this talented Filipino will keep his rightful place in the world history books.

*Much has been improved during the last 150 years, not only in the Philippines but also several other nations started to realize that they do not have to submit themselves automatically to the rules of intruders with a different cultural background. But as I mentioned before, a harmonious community with respect to each other, in the spirit of Rizal, must be build up from mutual understanding, passing thru a long maturing process, always keeping in mind the ultimate end goal. There will be no future without a past. One does not build a house from the top down, but start with a strong foundation. The stronger the bases, the higher you can build. Rizal laid the first stone and has drawn the building. It is up to the following generations, including ours, to continue the work he started, not for himself, but for the better of his countrymen and others who are in the same situation.*

*Thanks you for listening.*

*Salamat Po.*

*Sir Paul Verloo, KCR*

*Chapter Commander 2011-2013*

*Deputy Area Commander for Belgium 2012-2014*



# Independence Day Message from President Aquino

3/3



MALACANAN PALACE  
MANILA

## MESSAGE

We join the international Filipino community in commemorating the 115th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.

More than a century ago, our forebears fought for freedom, granting every Filipino the right to pursue what is good and right for himself, his loved ones, and his country. Their sacrifices had not been in vain. Today, our people remain united in independence, and are now fighting another battle—to free ourselves from the shackles of ignorance, corruption, injustice, and poverty. May you ignite the patriotism and bayanihan spirit in your hearts, as together, we build and fortify the structures on which our nation is built; may this event be an opportunity to further promote our cultural heritage and uphold the Philippines' revived distinction in this globalized, multicultural milieu.

We are our country's modern-day heroes in this period of revitalization; let us work as one collective, playing our part as custodians of peace and democracy, and as stakeholders in our movement towards equitable progress and lasting reform.

May you have an engaging and meaningful celebration.

  
BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

MANILA  
12 June 2013

# Independence Day Message of the Dept of Foreign Affairs

2/2

Kagawaran ng Ugnayang Panlabas



Department of Foreign Affairs

## MESSAGE

One hundred and fifteen years ago, Filipinos stood victorious and proud as the Philippine flag was raised for the first time to signify the birth of an independent nation. It was a time when the task of nation-building, daunting as it was, served to form a shared vision of a free, prosperous and just society that would be worthy of the pride of every Filipino.

This year's theme, *Kalayaan 2013: Ambagan tungo sa Malawakang Kaunlaran*, reminds us that each of us has a role to play in turning the vision of a prosperous Philippines into reality. With the principled leadership of President Benigno S. Aquino III, the Philippines endeavors to achieve inclusive growth that will ensure an improving quality of life for all.

We call on Filipinos all over the world to join in our country's march towards economic development and social progress. By investing in the Philippines and engaging in entrepreneurship, overseas Filipino workers can be more powerful drivers of growth. Our collective efforts will eventually transform overseas employment from a necessary means of survival to a real economic choice.

The Department of Foreign Affairs remains steadfast in its resolve to contribute to nation-building. Guided by the three pillars of Philippine foreign policy – the preservation of national security, the enhancement of economic diplomacy, and the protection of the rights and welfare of Filipinos overseas – we continue to engage the international community and represent Philippine interests abroad to ensure an environment that is conducive to growth.

Today we commemorate the sacrifices of the men and women who valiantly fought for our independence. From their example, we can draw strength and inspiration for the work that lies ahead. As we celebrate our Independence Day, let us all come together in forging a bright future for our country.

*Mabuhay at Maligayang Araw ng Kalayaan!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert F. Del Rosario".

ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO  
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

12 June 2013  
Pasay City

# Open letter from the Supremo



## Order of the Knights of Rizal

(Chartered Under Republic Act No. 646)

### SUPREME COUNCIL

International Headquarters

Manila, Philippines



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

May 27, 2013

Dear Knights of Rizal and Affiliate Members,

At all times, let us bear in mind that the Order of the Knights of Rizal is an honorable organization on account of two major points:

- It is chartered under a law of the land, Republic Act No. 646 giving it a character of nobility.
- It is composed of honorable members who revere and honor the life and ideals of Dr. Jose Rizal, the national hero of the Philippines.

Based on these alone, Knights of Rizal and members of its affiliates are called upon to observe courtesy and mutual respect. Differences of opinion, petty and trivial disagreements are, therefore, best handled in the spirit of fraternal correction where prudence takes precedence.

Therefore, resorting to the usage of the social media – Facebook, Twitter and the website – is discouraged. These are public means of communications and therefore local or private matters need not be coured through these media outlets so that they will not be exposed to parties that do not need to know.

On issues that need official opinion or intervention, it is advised that the ladder of hierarchy be strictly observed before these are elevated to the Supreme Council or published for public consumption.

Allow me then, to quote from a letter written by Dr. Jose Rizal on 28 January 1889 to the members of La Solidaridad and I quote:

*In young associations, the spirit of tolerance ought to prevail when it concerns trifles that do not affect the essential part of a thing; in the discussions, the conciliatory tendency ought to dominate before the tendency to oppose. No one should resent defeat. When any opinion is rejected, its author, instead of despairing and withdrawing, should on the contrary wait for another occasion in which justice may be done him. The individual should give way to the welfare of society. And so that the very delicate self-esteem of the Filipino - who is besides an unconscious individualist - may come out least hurt in the discussions, and discontent may be avoided, it would be advisable that to all propositions, proposals, projects, etc. should always be added that ending: We think thus, if the other members have no objection, or any other similar phrase that you may deem more appropriate. I have heard many discussions arising from questions of self-esteem. Laying this aside, the decisions of the majority, after a sufficient discussion, are sacred and unquestionable, unquote.*

Additionally, let us re-visit what Dr. Jose Rizal wrote in his "Letter to the Women of Malolos" which states: *All men are created equal, naked and without chains. They were not created by God to be enslaved. They were not endowed with intelligence either to be misled or fooled by others. It is not pride to refuse to worship a fellow man, to enlighten his mind, and to reason out everything. The arrogant one is he who wants to be worshipped, who misleads others and wants his will to prevail over reason and justice, unquote.*

Let us live the Rizal way, all the way.

Fraternally yours,

SIR REGIS M. ROMERO II, KGCR

*Supreme Commander*

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# Open brief van de Supremo

*Vertaling Sir Ronny Felix, KCR*

*Beste Ridders van Rizal en aanverwante leden,*

*Laat ons, ten allen tijde, niet vergeten dat de Orde van de Ridders van Rizal een eervolle organisatie is op grond van twee belangrijke punten:*

- Het is gecharterd onder een wet van het land, Republiek wet nr. 646 waardoor het een teken van statigheid is.*
- Het is samengesteld uit eerbare leden die het leven en de idealen respecteren en eren van dr. Jose Rizal, de nationale held van de Filippijnen.*

*Op basis van enkel deze punten zijn de Ridders van Rizal en de leden van haar aangesloten organisaties opgeroepen om hoffelijkheid en wederzijds respect te observeren. Verschillen van mening, kleine en triviale meningsverschillen worden daarom best behandeld in een geest van broederlijke vermaning waar voorzichtigheid voorrang heeft.*

*Daarom dient toevlucht nemen tot het gebruik van de sociale media - Facebook, Twitter en de website – te worden ontmoedigd. Dit zijn openbare communicatie middelen en dus moeten lokale of particuliere zaken niet worden behandeld via deze media, zodat ze niet zullen worden blootgesteld aan partijen die dit niet hoeven te weten.*

*Over zaken die officieel advies of tussenkomst vereisen, is het raadzaam dat de ladder van de hiërarchie strikt in acht wordt genomen voordat deze zaken worden verhoogd naar de Hoge Raad of voordat ze openbaar worden gepubliceerd.*

*Sta mij dan toe om te citeren uit een brief geschreven door dr. Jose Rizal op 28 januari 1889 aan de leden van La Solidaridad en ik citeer:*

*“Bij jonge verenigingen zou de geest van tolerantie moeten heersen als het om kleinigheden gaat die geen invloed hebben op het essentiële deel van een zaak; in de discussies zou de verzoenende tendens moeten domineren vóór de neiging zich ertegen te verzetten. Niemand mag een nederlaag kwalijk nemen. Wanneer een advies wordt afgewezen moet de auteur, in plaats van te wanhopen en zich terug te trekken, integendeel wachten op een andere gelegenheid waar gerechtigheid voor hem kan geschieden. Het individu moet kijken voor het welzijn van de samenleving. Om het zeer delicate gevoel van eigenwaarde van de Filipino - die ernaast ook een onbewuste individualist is – met de minste pijn uit de discussies te laten komen en om ontevredenheid te voorkomen, zou het wenselijk zijn dat aan alle proposities, voorstellen, projecten, enz. altijd wordt toegevoegd op het einde: Wij denken aldus, indien de overige leden geen bezwaar hebben, of enige andere gelijksoortige zin die u meer geschikt acht. Ik heb vele gesprekken gehoord die voortvloeien uit vragen van eigenwaarde. Dit terzijde leggend zijn de beslissingen van de meerderheid, na voldoende bespreking, heilig en onbetwistbaar”.*

*Bijkomend laten wij opnieuw herbekijken wat Dr Jose Rizal schreef in zijn "Brief aan de Vrouwen van Malolos" waarin staat:*

*“Alle mensen zijn gelijk gemaakt, naakt en zonder kettingen. Ze werden niet door God geschapen om te worden geknecht. Ze waren niet begiftigd met intelligentie om te worden misleid of bedrogen door anderen. Het is geen trots te weigeren een medemens te aanbidden, om zijn geest te verlichten en om alles te beredeneren. De arrogante is hij die aanbeden wil worden, die anderen misleidt en verlangt dat zijn wil zegeviert over de rede en rechtvaardigheid”.*

*Laat ons leven op de wijze van Rizal, volledig.*

*Met broederlijke groeten,*

**SIR REGHIS M. ROMERO II, KGCR**

*Supreme Commander*





The Order Of The Knights Of Rizal Belgium  
invites you to an evening of Music together with



A Cappella Manila  
*Pop·a·pella*

**2013 European Goodwill Concert Tour**

Featuring OPM and International Pop Songs

Saint Remi Church, Rue Michel Zwaab 5,

1080 Molenbeek-St Jean

Friday June 21, 2013,

At 6:30 Pm

Entrance Fee: 10€

Newly released album!





## **VRIENDSCHAPSBARBECUE**

**Zondag 29 september 2013 – 12 UUR**

**ZAAL 'T VERZET – DUINENWATER 45 (NAAST NMBS-STATION KNOKE)**

*Dominiek & Leah Segaert-Gallego & Magalie uit Knokke-Heist & Davao nodigen  
jullie van harte uit ten voordele van*

*straatjongerenproject Balay Pasilungan Davao City*

*Saint Michael School Padada & basisscholen in Davao del Sur*

**12 u. VIERING 11 JAAR VRIENDSCHAP VOOR DE FILIPPIJNEN**

**JEUGDHUIS 'T VERZET – DUINENWATER – BIJ ZWEMBAD SPORTOASE  
– KNOKE-HEIST**

**(NAAST STATION NMBS – PLAN: [www.jeugdclubtverzet.be/informatie](http://www.jeugdclubtverzet.be/informatie))**

**12.30 u. OPENING BARBECUE** (3 gangen met wok groentjes, rijst,  
aardappelen)

**14 u. OPTREDEN PAG IBIG-KOOR O.L.V. BING REQUIERON  
OVERZICHT 11 JAAR VVF**

**14.30 u. TOMBOLA – KOFFIE DESSERT**

**VOLWASSENEN: 17 EUR – KINDEREN: -12: 10 EUR**

**KAARTEN/TICKETS: 0479691865 (Dominiek)**

**0471564799 (Leah)**

**[dominiek.segaert@skynet.be](mailto:dominiek.segaert@skynet.be)**

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## CALENDAR

- ♦ *21st June: The A Capella Manila choir sponsored by the Belgian Area Council - St Rémy church Brussels*
  - ♦ *29th September: BBQ Friendship for the Philippines - Knokke-Heist*
  - ♦ *19th October: Autumn activity in “De Schuur”, Kruibeke*
  - ♦ *30th December: Rizal Day - Philippine Embassy*
  - ♦ *25th January 2014: 14th Chartering Anniversary Diamond Chapter in “De Watermeulen”, Kruibeke*
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## NEXT NEWSLETTER

*Our next Newsletter will be published in October 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 - [board@knightsofrizal.be](mailto:board@knightsofrizal.be)

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