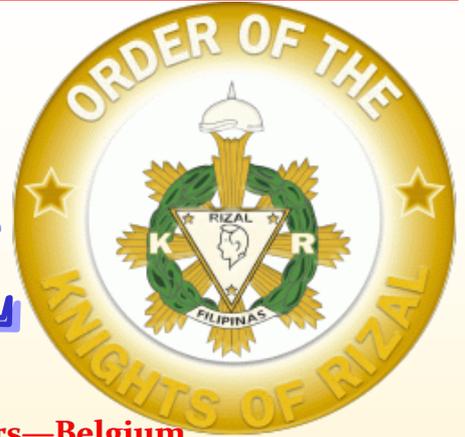


Newsletter Knights of RIZAL



Diamond Chapter Antwerp—Flanders—Belgium

Issue 30

Volume 5

March 2012

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Introduction**
- **Membership Reminder**
- **Report 12th Chartering Anniversary**
- **Report Philcom assembly**
- **Are Council meeting**
- **Sesquicentennial Sir Lucien**
- **Calendar**
- **Next Newsletter**
- **Board coordinates & members**



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,

The new year is well on the way now and some activities have been passed. In our next article we will give you a report of our 12th Chartering Anniversary celebration in the Watermeulen in Kruibeke, our yearly place to be.

We could like to thank the participants for their continued dedication and, of course we welcome our new Knight, Sir Julien Kusé and we hope seeing you all again at our next activity on March 31st, details to be found further in this Newsletter. Your contribution and your presence will be well appreciated. As already mentioned in our previous Newsletter, KOR Diamond Chapter will support 2 projects this year: 'Operation Smile', which organization started 30 years ago in the Philippines and 'Friendship for the Philippines' celebrating their 10th anniversary later this year.

In order to be able to support these admirable initiatives with a substantial financial amount we count on your contribution. While enjoying a unique brotherhood with the other knights, their ladies, other family members and friends, we will consume a nice BBQ accompanied with the necessary beverages but we will also extend our knowledge of Dr. José Rizal and his beloved country in an entertaining manner.

For those who are planning far ahead, there will be 2 Philippine Independence Day celebrations supported by our chapter: June 10 in Brussels and June 17 in Bruges.

(Continued on page 2)



One of the highlights for the Knights of Rizal is his birthday, 19 June, which will be celebrated at the Philippine Embassy in Brussels. This year there might be an extra item as an extension of his 150th birthday of last year. More details will be revealed at the end of this month, during our BBQ.

Fraternal greetings,

Sir Paul Verloo, KCR
Chapter Commander 2011-2013
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 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 Rommy Felix, KOR, Archivist, Editor newslett

Renewal Membership 2012

Dear brother Knights

During last year the Diamond Chapter could enjoy a large number of dedicated knights, what we appreciated very much. We will make sure that 2012 will be an even more fruitful year so that we will be able to donate a valuable amount to projects which are worth to be supported.

However this is only possible with our common support, of which the membership fee is an essential part. Therefore, may we count on those knights who did not paid their fee for 2012 yet, to do so in the coming weeks? The account is 979 6095137 50 of DIAMOND CHAPTER RIZAL – 2100 DEURNE Please inform me of your payment by e-mail, sums or phone in order to be able to confirm your membership and to make a correct and timely transfer of our dues to KOR HQ in Manila.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Hernieuwing lidmaatschap 2012

Beste vrienden Knights

Vorig jaar kon de Diamond Chapter genieten van een groot aantal toegenegen knights, wat we ten zeerste konden appreciëren. We zullen 2012 nog een vruchtvoller jaar maken, zodat we een waardevol bedrag kunnen schenken aan projecten die het waard zijn.

Nochtans kan dit enkel gebeuren met onze gemeenschappelijke steun, waarvan het lidmaatschapsgeld een essentieel onderdeel uitmaakt. Kunnen we erop rekenen dat de knights die hun lidgeld voor 2012 nog niet betaald hebben, deze dit in de komende weken zullen doen ?

Het rekeningnummer is 979 6095137 50 op naam van DIAMOND CHAPTER RIZAL – 2100 DEURNE Gelieve mij je betaling te willen melden via e-mail, SMS of per telefoon zodat ik je lidmaatschap kan bevestigen en dat we een juiste en tijdige betalingen van onze 'dues' naar KOR HQ kunnen uitvoeren.

Dank u voor uw medewerking.

12th Chartering Anniversary – KOR Diamond Chapter

A few months have passed already since our yearly Chartering event at Salons “De Watermeulen” in Kruikebeke.

Sir Peter van Bogaert, KGOR, welcomed the 80 participants. Unfortunately we could not welcome Ambassador Mrs. Victoria Bataclan and her husband due to other obligations.

Instead it was Mr. Roy Ecraela, Minister & Consul, who addressed the audience and read the message of H.E. Victoria Bataclan.

Sir Dominiek Segaert read a message of H.E. Christian Meersman, the Belgian Ambassador in the Philippines.



**Minister & Consul
Mr Roy Ecraela**



Dubbing of Sir Julien Kuse

After the introductory part, the ritual for the dubbing of the knights started.

Sir Paul Verloo, Chapter Commander, dubbed our new knight, Sir Julien Kusé.

5 of our knights were elevated to the second degree of Knight Officer of Rizal:

- Sir Eric Borghijs
- Sir Marc Helsen
- Sir Martin Hemelaer
- Sir Sylvain Herremans
- Sir Kristoff Mortier

Last part of the ceremony was the exaltation of Sir Ronny Felix to Knight Commander of Rizal.

The Diamond Chapter then showed an update of the supported projects from 2008 through 2011.

Sir Antonio Guansing, KGOR and Regional Commander for Europe, addressed the public for a final word.

Thanks to the participation of Sir Roy De Mol we could set up a live connection with our brother knight Sir Geert Verhaegen, KOR, who was on a trip in Davao for preparing the next “Operation Smile”. Kudos also to Sir Geert for staying up so late but the benefit was that he could see his wife Faith who also attended the party.



The new Officers

After the usual photo shooting session everyone was invited for the dinner. As always the food was delicious and plentiful. After the dinner a few ladies surprised the audience with a special act by performing the Tagalog version - “Ang Awit ni Maria Clara” of the “Canto de Maria Clara”.

Then the rest of the evening was for the dancers and for strengthening friendships.

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(Continued from page 3)



Sir Ronny Felix & Sir Kris Van Thillo



Sir Dominiek Segaert, Mr Roy Ebraela, Sir Tony Guansing, Sir Peter Van Bogaert

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(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)



The buffet



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)



(Continued from page 7)



The ladies with their surprise act

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(Continued from page 8)



FILIPINO COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

The Philippine Ambassador, H.E. Victoria S. Bataclan and her staff hosted this Assembly of Filipino Communities in Belgium and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, on February 17th at the Embassy in Brussels. Our Diamond Chapter was voluntarily represented by Sir Danny Vandenberg, for which we thank him.

The very fruitful meeting touched a variety of topics and in order to enhance the exchange of information among the Filipino groups and possibly organize common activities, the ambassador proposed to meet regularly, let's us say every month.

Another idea of the ambassador is to put together a 'Reference Book', stating all the PhilComs in Belgium - each on its own page(s) mentioning their history and the relation between the different communities and their achievements. Some stories of experiences of first Filipinos in Belgium, Luxemburg and EU would be a nice sideline.

On the website www.philembassy.be you can find already main dates of activities where the embassy is involved, like "Asia Fair", "AWEX Economic Mission", "World Bamboo Congress", "European Seafood Exhibition" and "Agricultural Investment Forum".

This can be widened with a list of Community Activities so that nobody has to miss an opportunity to meet other fellow countrymen and or to fraternize with local people with the same interest.

All Filipino citizens are encouraged to vote on 13 May 2013. Although the election is still some time ahead of us, application for registration/certification must be filed between 31 October 2011 and 31 October 2012. Furthermore the advantages of dual citizenship were explained. In 2011, around 90 applicants were counted.

Radio Pinoy UK, an internet based radio station broadcasting 24 hours a day from the UK is seeking sponsors and Belgian correspondents to establish an independent station in Belgium. Candidates can be trained by Mr. Larangan (radiopinoy-uk.com).

This is only an incomplete list of their topics. More details about items that draw your interest, can be obtained through your organization (possibly at a next meeting) or directly via the embassy.

To end this article, I would like to use the words extracted from the Philippine Embassy website itself:

'The Philippine Embassy pursues active collaboration with all of these Filipino community organizations in Belgium and Luxembourg and engages their cooperation in various activities to foster a united and true Filipino community spirit.'

With our chapter we will fully support this praiseworthy initiative.

Sir Paul Verloo

Chapter Commander 2011-2013

AREA COUNCIL MEETING KOR BELGIUM MARCH 26

On Monday March 26, 2012, 6.15 p.m. the Area Council KOR Belgium holds its meeting at the Philippine Embassy Brussels for all active KOR Chapters in Belgium (KOR Aalst, KOR Brussels, KOR Charleroi and KOR Diamond Antwerp) presided by Sir Dominiek Segaert, KGOR, Area Commander KOR Belgium. All Chapter Commanders, Deputy Chapter Commanders of the KOR Chapters in Belgium past Area and Regional Commanders and other interested knights who want to give a significant input in the following agenda:

- ◆ *organising the Unique Rizal Travel Exhibit (Mr. John Ablaza, Philippines and group) with possible date June 16-17, 2012 with gala-evening and dubbing to KR and exaltation to Honorary KCR of Mr. Oscar Bataclan, husband of H.E. Victoria Bataclan and also (still to be confirmed officially by the Embassy of the United States of America) H.E. Howard Gutman, Ambassador of the US to the Kingdom of Belgium who showed a big interest in the KOR during his visit in Knokke and dinner with Sir Dominiek and the board of vtbKultuur, a cultural Flemish organisation, on Jan. 26;*
- ◆ *update fundraising Mindanao disaster;*
- ◆ *dues and membership KOR;*
- ◆ *elections Supreme Council and Regional and Area Appointments;*
- ◆ *activities KOR*

Also Ambassador H.E. Victoria Bataclan and members of the staff of the Philippine Embassy will participate in the meeting. A small snack and a drink will be provided with pleasure.

If you want to participate in this meeting, please contact Sir Dominiek at 0479691865.



Diamond Chapter - Antwerp

INVITATES you to a

BBQ & Rizal activity

Where ?

De Schuur, Broekdam-Noord 47, 9150 Kruibeke

When ?

Saturday 31 March 2012

You are welcome as from 16:30

What ?

Well known BBQ and leg ham with vegetables

For whom ?

All knights, their children, their families, friends and everybody with an interest to learn more about Rizal, the Philippines and/or the order of the Knights of Rizal.

- ◆ *Welcome*
- ◆ *BBQ*
- ◆ *Presentation cultural differences: Belgium vs Philippines by Sir Dominiek.*
- ◆ *Small quiz related to above mentioned presentation by Sir Paul*
- ◆ *Presentation Travelling Rizal Museum*
- ◆ *Messages and brotherhood*

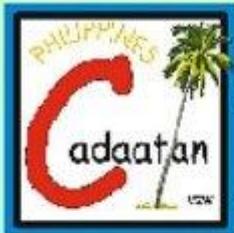
Tickets and reservations

Please make timely reservations with one of the board members but surely before 26 March. We prefer bank transfer ot 979-6095137-50 of Diamond Chapter, Deurne but payment at entrance can also be accepted.

Adults: € 22.00 6-12 years: € 12.00 < 6 years: free

Beverage at democratic prices.

Dress code: casual



KORTEMARK

OC 'De Kouter'
Ichtegemstraat 2A

Zat. 14 april

Sat. April 14

2012

Vanaf 10u30



met Filippijnse producten en eetstanden

Vanaf 18u00

Disco-night en karaoke

met *DJ Gino* - Discobar SUPER SOUND

FREE ENTRANCE — GRATIS INKOM

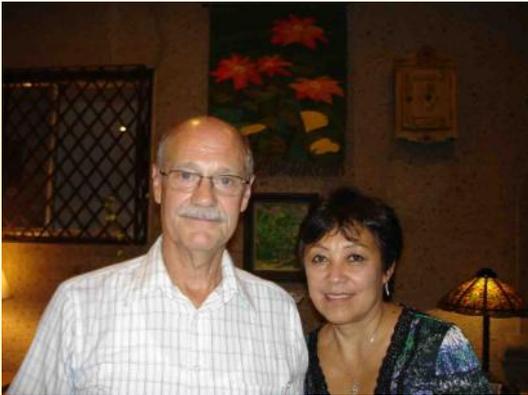
VU: Denise Parypen, Willemsstraat 12, 8610 Handzame

*De opbrengst gaat integraal naar
het boerderij-project van
Cadaatan VZW op het eiland
CEBU -
Filippijnen*



My Rizal sesquicentennial trip in the Philippines (10th - 30th June 2011)

This is the last part of a report of Sir Lucien Spittaël and his wife Madeline's recent trip to the Philippines where he attended many celebrations for the 150th Birthday of Jose Rizal.



Madeline & Lucien Spittaël

Part 4



Mrs. Gemma Cruz Araneta



Rizal family meeting

On the evening of the first day of the Conference we were invited for dinner to the residence of the President of UP, where the acting Supreme Commander of the Order of the Knights of Rizal, Sir Reghis M. Romero II, KGCR and I addressed the guests.

(Continued on page 15)



Sir Reghis M. Romero II, KGCR



Lucien

During the afternoon of 23rd June I carried out some further Rizal research at the National Library.



Rizal research

This highly successful Rizal conference ended in the late afternoon of 24th June.

25th June:

From our new hotel in Manila Madeline went shopping while I visited some bookshops. At noon we had lunch with Mrs. Malou Villaroman and that evening we enjoyed dinner at the home of other Rizal family descendents, Mr. Manolete Gonzales and Atty. R. Reyes.



26th June:

Mrs. Malou Villaroman kindly brought us to Calamba where we visited the Rizal family house, the new Rizal statue and all the other Rizal statues in the town. In the afternoon we drove on to Santa Rosa where we visited the 'Rizal@150' exhibition and attended a Rizal theatre play



Rizal's house in Calamba



New Rizal statue in Calamba



Rizal exhibition in Santa Rosa



Mrs. E. Almosara and Rizal family members



Rizal theatres play



Rizal theatre play

27th June:

At 08.00hrs. I went to the GPO and mailed two packages with books and a tube with tarpaulins to my home address in Belgium. I picked up Madeline at the hotel and we once again went to the National library for some further Rizal research.



At noon we went to UST for a short Rizal research and from there we proceeded to view the Rizal exhibits at Ateneo de Manila.



UST



UST exhibition

That evening we again were honoured for being invited for dinner to the house of a descendent of Maximo Viola. As a joke, I asked him if he could lend me PHP300. (As Rizal had asked Viola, to assist with the printing of the Noli in Berlin)



Maximo Viola family members



Looking at Viola's memorabilia

28th June:

In the morning we were invited to the opening of the Sentro Rizal at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) in General Luna Street, Intramuros.



Opening of Sentra Rizal at NCCA



Atty. Ramoncita Reyes and Mrs. Gemma Cruz

We then visited the University of the City of Manila, where Gemma Cruz-Araneta is a Member of the Board of Regents.



University of the City of Manila

In the afternoon we had an appointment at the Manila Hotel and that evening we had dinner with a friend at Mega Mall on EDSA. The journey from Manila to EDSA took us two and a half hours ! (Manila rush hour) While Madeline did some shopping I went to the antiquarian shop 'Old Manila' on the search for some rare, old Rizal books and managed to find and buy an original of Epistolario Rizalino, Tomo III for a reasonable price.



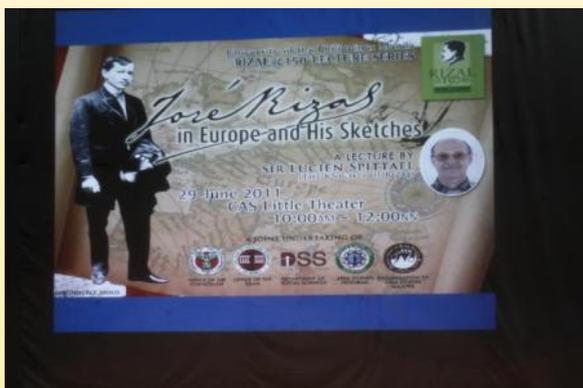
Lobby Manila Hotel



Antiquarian bookshop "Old Manila"

29th June:

In the morning I delivered a Rizal presentation at the University of the Philippines Manila.



University of the Philippines Manila



Certificate and presents

In the afternoon I visited the Rizal exhibition at the Lopez Memorial Museum while Madeline took some rest at the hotel.



Rizal exhibit at LMM



Rizal's calling card

At 21.00hrs. we had an appointment at the MBC DZRH broadcasting station for a combined TV-Radio interview.



TV/Radio interview

At 22.00hrs. we hurried to our hotel to pack our luggage.

30th. June:

We left our hotel very early in the morning and proceeded to NAIA for our flight home. Our friend, Consul-General Peter Van Bogaert, picked us up at Amsterdam and after a two-and-a-half hour drive we finally arrived home from a very demanding but fulfilling 20 days in the Philippines.



Amsterdam, Schiphol Airport, Consul-General Peter Van Bogaert, Madeline

I would like to thank, most sincerely, all those who took care of us in Manila, drove us to Rizal locations, made appointments, invited us to lunch/dinner, helped me in my Rizal research and arranged for me to make presentations to different universities, TV/Radio stations and the Rizal and Viola families. I could only offer them Belgian chocolates and some beautiful Rizal postcards from Wilhelmsfeld and, if they ever manage to come to Belgium (which I hope) I would be of similar service to them in return.



Wilhelmsfeld Rizal postcards

I also need to especially thank my wife Madeline. In February I made a 15 day Knights of Rizal Assembly and research trip to Manila by myself, because I had a very busy schedule and no time for rest. I promised her a vacation on our June trip and we did not even have time to visit her home town! I am truly grateful for her support, understanding and forbearance in all of these matters.

Soon after our return home the Rizal tarpaulins which I had shipped to Belgium arrived.



The Rizal sesquicentennial tarpaulins

Lucien Spittaël

CALENDAR

- ◆ *March 26th: Area Council meeting—Philippine Embassy*
 - ◆ *March 31st: Activity in “De Schuur” - Kruibeke*
 - ◆ *June 10th: Philippines Independence Day in Brussels*
 - ◆ *June 17th: Philippines Independence Day in Bruges (Belfort)*
 - ◆ *June 19th: Birthday of Rizal*
 - ◆ *October 27th: Activity in “De Schuur” - Kruibeke*
 - ◆ *December 30th: Rizal Day*
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NEXT NEWSLETTER

Our next Newsletter will be published in May 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 – ☎ 03 5424411
CHAPTER COMMANDER 2011—2013
paul.verloo@hotmail.com

Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KGOR - ☎ 050 601320 – Mob. 0479 691 865
AREA COMMANDER BELGIUM—Past Chapter Commander 2008—2011
dominiek.segaert@skynet.be

Sir Peter VAN BOGAERT, KGOR – ☎ 03 3257116
ADVISER – TRUSTEE – SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE SUPREME COMMANDER
pb.vanbogaert@skynet.be

Sir Tony GUANSING, KGOR – ☎ 03 2191491
TRUSTEE – REGIONAL COMMANDER FOR EUROPE, LIFE TIME MEMBER
quansing@telenet.be

Sir Kris VAN THILLO, KCR – ☎ 03 6664385
CO-SECRETARY – PAST CHAPTER COMMANDER
krimas@telenet.be

Sir Roy DE MOL, KCR – ☎ 03 5419482
EXCHEQUER – DEPUTY COMMANDER
roydemol@skynet.be

Sir Rik VAN TIGGEL, KCR – ☎ 0475 763663
DEPUTY COMMANDER & CO-CHANCELLOR
rik@zoomed.eu

Sir Ronny FELIX, KCR – ☎ 03 252 77 81 - Mob. 0473 491 482
ARCHIVIST - LAYOUT & CO-EDITOR NEWSLETTER
felilonq@gmail.com

WEBMASTER

Sir Danny BERGHMANS, KOR – ☎ 0488 05 36 03
webmaster@knightsoftrizal.be

THE MEMBERS

| MEMBERS (UPDATE SINCE Jan. 2011) | |
|--|--|
| Sir Albert BIJLOOS, KOR | Sir Pros SLACHMUYLDERS, KGOR, Chartering Commander (Hon. Member) |
| Sir Frank VAN OVERLOOP, KOR | Sir Fr. Paul ZWAENEPOEL, KCR, (Hon. Member) |
| Sir Marc WOUTERS, KR | Sir Danny VANDENBOGAERDE, KOR |
| Sir Gert MEEUWSEN, KOR | Sir Geert VERHAEGEN, KOR |
| Sir Hugo SPEELMANS, KOR | Sir Dirk VANDEWEGHE, KOR |
| Sir Rudy LUYCKX, KOR | Sir Frankie VERCAMMEN, KOR |
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| 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 Julkien Kusé, KR | Sir Kris Ortmanns, KCR, Former Chapter Commander |
| Sir Pascal Ockermans—Postulant | |