

Dear friends,

Our Father's Day Breakfast was a great success and I am including some pictures in this email to prove it!

We are very pleased that our Pedro Pan fathers and grandfathers that were present enjoyed their day so much....the food was great, the company was awesome and the new venue proved to be a wonderful fit.

After hearing very good feedback from all of you we decided to repeat our experience in the same restaurant this month. For those of you that miss it last month, you have another opportunity on our next breakfast on July 21st!! I will send a reminder with the details later on the month for those of you who want to join us.

Also in June, I had the opportunity to visit Puerto Rico for a Pedro Pan Lunch at Casa Cuba in Isla Verde, Puerto Rico. Beautiful place, beautiful beach and good "arroz con pollo"!! What else can you ask for? Have a look at some of the pictures from that day. Our thanks to our Trustee Luis Gordillo, and to Pedro Pans Rita Rodriguez and Angel Carballo for taking their time to prepare this lovely reunion for all of us to enjoy.

Please mark your calendars for our November Weekend of Events.....We already have the dates so reserve the time to be with us and celebrate!! This year concludes the celebrations of our 50th Year Anniversary....don't miss it!

The dates: **Friday, November 16th to Sunday, November 18th, 2012.**

Love,

Carmencita Romanach

***The official Pedro Pan Newsletter of Operation Pedro Pan
Group Inc.***

**OPERATION PEDRO PAN GROUP, INC. (OPPG)
A National Charitable Organization**

www.pedropan.org

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July 2, 2012

Pedro Pan News



Father's Day Breakfast

June 16, 2012

Our Pedro Pan father's enjoyed a very special breakfast this month. As it is usual a picture of our beloved Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh accompanied us in that special day. It is our tradition to take Monsignor's picture with us to the June breakfast to celebrate Father's Day and his birthday (June 19th) with him. Again, a picture of the PP boys and PP girls is included. If you want to see more pictures go to our face book account:

www.facebook.com/OPPGI or if you don't have a face book account you can access the album at the following link:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.473089149372765.124999.162818820399801&type=3&l=2761321e88>

Puerto Rico Reunion

June 9, 2012



Playa de Isla Verde, Puerto Rico





Our Pedro Pan brothers/sisters living in Puerto Rico had a lovely lunch at the historic restaurant Casa Cuba in Isla Verde, Puerto Rico. For many of us that arrived Puerto Rico, la Isla del Encanto in the 60s this is an emblematic place. This beautiful beach reminded us our beloved Cuba and many of us spend many fun days at this beach.

For more pictures go to the following link:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.477858628895817.125901.162818820399801&type=3&l=567cc69391>

National History Day

June 10-14, 2012

National History Day (NHD) is a highly regarded academic program for elementary and secondary school students.

Each year, more than half a million students, encouraged by thousands of teachers nationwide participate in the NHD contest. Students choose historical topics related to a theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews and historic sites. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions about their topics' significance in history, students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances and documentaries. These products are entered into competitions in the spring at local, state and national levels where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators. The program culminates in the Kenneth E. Behring National Contest each June held at the University of Maryland at College Park.

The 2012 theme was: Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History

Two entries relating to Operation Pedro Pan under two different categories went to the Finals at the University of Maryland.

1. Dylan Henry, who placed 1st in the Junior Individual Documentary category at the 2012 Washington State History Day contest, placed 11th of over 100 qualifying entries at the 2012 National History Day competition with his documentary Operation Pedro Pan Through the Eyes of The Children. Dylan, is the grandson of Pedro Pan María del Carmen Cobo. Congratulations, Dylan, on a job well done!

2. Daniel Sanchez, Elliott Riches and Catherine Harrington of the American Heritage School in Broward County, FL, placed second in the Senior Group Performance Category at the 2012 Florida History Fair State Contest. They received the Special Award in the Immigration History Category at the National History Day Contest, held at the University of Maryland, for their project entitled "Operation Pedro Pan: The Story". Congratulations to this group of Florida teenagers!

We had the pleasure to meet Dylan, Daniel, Elliot and Catherine and support them with information/articles/research gathered by our OPPG Historic Committee for their projects. At this time we want to thank them for choosing Operation Pedro Pan as their topic and for making such an awesome job at telling our story. Congratulations to all of them!

Our legacy continues as the younger generations are inspired by our experiences.....

Stories about Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh

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My Monsignor Walsh Story

by Martha M. Russ
nee Fernandez

My mother had known of Father Walsh, of course, since I'm a Pedro Pan child. I probably ran into him over and over for two years before I met him. I attended Sts. Peter & Paul School, and I lived across the street from there, so I constantly hung around the place-not to mention the many Saturday detentions I spent helping the nuns clean the convent and the church. Perhaps to me he was just another Irish priest who spoke English with a funny accent. In the summer of 1964, it seemed like the whole eighth grade graduating class was registering to attend Immaculata-LaSalle School in the fall. Financially, I didn't have a chance. My mother, a Cuban refugee, worked in a sewing factory, just to pay for the two-room efficiency where we lived. My father had arrived in April of that year, very sick, straight from a hospital in Madrid. I had just about given hope of going to ILS, but my mother said she would ask Father Walsh for help. She had never met him face to face, and she took me with her to translate the meeting, only to find out that Father Walsh spoke fluent Spanish. He spoke like a Cuban with an Irish accent. I don't know what was said, because I was a little kid, not paying attention to the adults' discussion, but I was thrilled to learn that I would be attending school with my friends. I went to ILS for the next four years, thanks to

*the generosity of Father Walsh. But our story doesn't end there. A year later, in October of 1965, my father passed away. Once more, my mother walked across the street with a heavy heart, para hablar con el padre-to speak to the priest. We didn't have any money to pay for the burial grounds. Father Walsh donated a burial plot at Our Lady of Mercy Cemetery in Miami, and my father was buried there. In my book, *Black Beans and Rice-Growing Up Cuban*, I have acknowledged the big role that Monsignor Bryan Walsh played in my life. "Special thanks to Monsignor Bryan Walsh who not only helped me get to this country through Operation Pedro Pan, but he also paid for my Catholic education in Miami, Florida. how could I ever thank him enough? I hope God has a special place saved for that man." He's the only man who, though he remained celibate all his life, is "father" to over 14,000 children. I hope he's looking down at us, with his crinkly, smiling eyes, and I hope he's proud of us. No, there's no pride in heaven, but there's pride down here, and we're all Oh so proud of him. Our Monsignor Walsh, may he rest in glory.*

Future Events Calendar:

Saturday, July 21, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast

Place: Las Vegas Cuban Cuisine, 11500 NW 41st., Doral, Fl

Saturday, August 18, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast

Place: TBA

Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast

Place: TBA

Saturday, October 20, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast

Place: TBA

Saturday, November 17, 2012 - Thanksgiving Dinner

Place: Miami Beach Resort and Spa., 4833 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, fl

Sunday, November 18, 2012 at 10:30 AM- Thanksgiving Mass

Place: St. Joseph Catholic Church, 8670 Byron Ave., Miami Beach, Fl

Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast

Place: TBA

Sunday, December 20, 2012 - Memorial Mass

Place: TBA

Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc

A National Charitable Organization of the former Children of Pedro Pan

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