

Dear friends,

Our Annual Family Picnic was a wonderful day where we shared the unique Pedro Pan bond with our children and grandchildren. A picture says more than a thousand words so I have included some of them in this Newsletter. A tour of the former Kendall camp which is inside the Park grounds is always a treat for newcomers to our Picnic.

My special thanks to the Sacred Orphanage group that graciously invited me to their activities on the weekend of March 16-18. See a group picture below. We Pedro Pan are UNIQUE and ONE at the same time and I confirmed it once again! It was a very touching experience to share some time with this wonderful group that came from all around the United States to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Congratulations to all of them!!

Don't forget our Election breakfast on April 21st, 2012. Active members of OPPG who are current with their membership fees are eligible to vote. Absentee ballots can be requested by email to [members@pedropan.org](mailto:members@pedropan.org) and must be sent via US mail before April 14h.

Attached please find Swearing Ceremony Flyer with information about this event that will take place next May 11th, 2012. You can start sending your reservations now.

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](http://www.pedropan.org)

<http://www.facebook.com/OPPGI>

*April 2, 2012*

## *Pedro Pan News*



### **2012 Annual Family Picnic**

*March 18, 2012*

*Kendall Indian Hammock Park*

You can see more pictures at the following link:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.407768085904872.113442.162818820399801&type=1&l=3beeef7dc4>

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## Pedro Pan III: Our Legacy



Our precious grandchildren: Pedro Pan III generation  
born in the home of the brave and the land of the free....

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## Sacred Heart Orphanage 50th Reunion



A group of Pedro Pan from Sacred Heart Orphanage in Pueblo, Colorado celebrated their 50th year Reunion in Miami, Fl during the weekend of March 16-18, 2012.

The bond they share is very special. The picture above is from a dinner on Saturday, March 17th.

As you can imagine the most difficult part is getting them to stay quiet for a few minutes to take the picture!!

Congratulations to all of them on this milestone.....

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# Stories about Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh

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## “Our Place in History in relation to Father Walsh”

By Marily A. Reyes (MAR)

With the ink of my life I shall write a short version of our place in history.

It was 1961 when I came to this country that opened its arms of freedom to us Cubans. Many children were sent alone by their parents to allow them to grow with freedom of religion, of ideals, freedom to choose, simply freedom to be. Back then most of us did not know that this Operation was called Pedro Pan. Actually, we were all married with kids by the time the Operation Pedro Pan “kids” became to know THEY were Pedro Pans, so by then it was the Pedro Pans and their significant others that started to form a group, as it is in my case, since I’m an “adopted” Pedro Pan by marriage and by other little things I will go on to describe.

It was Father Bryan Walsh (back then he was still “father”, later on became Monsignor), who with the Catholic Welfare arranged for about 50 children to come from Cuba to freedom in the USA, these 50 became more than 14,000, all of them arriving alone without their parents. I don’t qualify as a Pedro Pan because my dad left Cuba for USA in September 1959 and later on in July 1961 I came with my mom and two sisters, and even if I came during the Pedro Pan flights I did not come alone but...it is now as adults that we all realize things that maybe we didn’t understand so clearly back then.

My mom was a teacher in Cuba, but the public schools here were/are not as advanced as in Cuba, therefore my parents wanted us to have a private school education, but the money stayed in Cuba...so, I remember clearly having a meeting with Father Walsh in his office at Sts. Peter & Paul Rectory, Parish where we attended Mass and school where my parents wanted us to go. Father Walsh asked me several questions before deciding to help us out and allow me and my younger sister to attend Catholic School paying a minimum. Now, many years after I see there were several Pedro Pans in school with me, both in Sts. Peter & Paul and later on Immaculata/La Salle High School (ILS).

Indirectly Father Walsh taught us, at an early age, that we could get things but, if we worked for it, so my days of working at Sts. P & P began. First I started to work at the school in whatever was necessary until one day one of the sisters saw me an early Saturday morning and said...“*no, you should be working at the Rectory, walk over and give them this note.*” From then on I worked at the Rectory’s office every Saturday the whole day for years, until I graduated from ILS.

I remember one of the things I had to do was translate into Spanish Father Walsh’s Sunday sermons, as well as those of other priests. Boy am I glad it was from English

into Spanish and not the other way around!!! I also had to take phone messages and translate them, as well as the Sunday Bulletin.

I guess we were not appreciative enough back then, we really did not understand the spectrum of it all, but the years have taught us much.

We have come to understand things, like a story my husband Frank told me when he was in one of the camps and there were so many kids, they slept in tents, it was cold, they were at an age where kids eat a lot, food was not sufficient and one day Father Walsh showed up in his sports car with skies on top, .wow, kids got really ticked off and started a strike. Well, later on in life we get to find out Father Walsh came from a well to do family and actually he was helping out rather than taking. He didn't have to do that, yet he chose to.

Education, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, learning that work was rewarded, a sense of belonging and so much more Father Walsh put on our plate. This was much more than the food we ate, these were lessons that we would carry through life and pass on to our children. And my story is only a drop of ink in the inkwell of life, just a little stroke of our place in history.

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*Marily A. Reyes is the President of The Cove/Rincon Internacional, a cultural, bilingual, non-profit organization founded in 1995.*

*The organization has been recently nominated for the prestigious "Premio Principe de Asturias de las Artes" in Spain.*

*The nomination in itself is already an award and we are happy to share this information with all of you.*

*Congratulations, Marily!! We are proud of you and the organization you preside.*

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**Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc.**  
**Swearing-In Ceremony & Dinner Dance**



**Friday, May 11, 2012**  
**8:00 pm - 12:00 am**



**Doral Reception Hall**  
**10395 NW 41<sup>st</sup> Street, suite 235,**  
**Doral, FL**

**Donation: \$35.00 per person**  
**Includes: Dinner, Bar, Music**

**Doors will be open at 8 p.m.**

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**Please cut-out this section & mail with your check by May 1, 2012**

**Please make check payable to: Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc. & mail them to:**  
**Frank Echeverria, 9710 SW 6 Street, Miami, FL 33174**  
**Email: [franke18@bellsouth.net](mailto:franke18@bellsouth.net)**

NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Persons \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Looking for Pedro Pan**

ATTENTION:

1. Maria Magda de Quesada is looking for Maria del Carmen Lopez Lima (Carmencita Lopez) a fellow Pedro Pan from the group in Sacred Heart Orphanage, Pueblo, Colorado.

If you have any information, please contact us at: [members@pedropan.org](mailto:members@pedropan.org) or 305 554 7196.

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### **Future Events Calendar:**

#### **Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 10 AM - Election Breakfast**

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

#### **Friday, May 11, 2012 at 8 PM- Swearing In**

Place: Doral Reception Hall, 10395 NW 41St., Doral, FI (second floor)

#### **Saturday, June 16, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast**

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

#### **Saturday, July 21, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast**

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

#### **Saturday, August 18, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast**

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

#### **Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast**

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

#### **Saturday, October 20, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast**

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

#### **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, FI



**Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast**

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FL

**Sunday, December 20, 2012 - Memorial Mass**

Place: TBA

**Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc**

**A National Charitable Organization of the former Children of Pedro Pan**

161 Madeira Avenue, Suite 61 Coral Gables, FL. 33134 - (305) 554-7196

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