

Dear friends,

Our July Breakfast was a very special one as we had the honor to have two very special guests: Madre Maria Victoria and Madre Paulina. Both of them were part of the group of 6 Filipense nuns (from the order of St. Phillip of Neri) that took care of us at Kendall, Florida City and later, at Villa Madonna (for girls after 18). Both of them are living now at St. Jerome Parish in Ft. Lauderdale after a very long life of service: Madre Maria Victoria in Chile and Madre Paulina in Mexico. Although both are in their late 70s, they are still active, serving others with the same love as they have always done. What an example for all of us.....! and what a joy to be with them again to share a meal that resembled the ones we shared in the camp dining hall. M. Maria Victoria blessed the table with beautiful words before the breakfast, a very special moment for all the ones present that morning.

A very special story about Monsignor Walsh, written by Maria Cristina Beyra (Pepe Prince's wife) is included in this Newsletter for your enjoyment. Still another perspective of our beloved Monsignor Walsh that we all enjoy so much. Thanks, Maria Cristina, for sharing it with us!

Please note that our Trustee, Dr. Victor A. Triay will talk about Operation Pedro Pan at Donahue Academy in Ave Maria, FL next August 18th, see details below. Don't miss it if you are close to the area.....it is worth it!

We have included a 2012 Tentative Agenda for our OPPG November Weekend for the benefit of Pedro Pans that are coming from out of town. Also some important information to make reservations at Miami Beach Resort and Spa in Miami Beach. The Friday celebrations are going to be "one of a kind" so, try not to miss on the fun!! We suggest that you arrive the night before so you can enjoy it all! This year concludes our 50th Year Anniversary Celebrations.....and you only live once....take the time and enjoy a weekend of bonding with your Pedro Pan brothers/sisters!! It doesn't get any better than this....!

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>

*August 2, 2012*

***Pedro Pan News***



***M. Maria Victoria and M. Paulina  
Religiosas Filipenses Misioneras de Enseñanza***

***For more pictures of our July Breakfast, please go to the  
following link:***

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.490409810974032.128679.162818820399801&type=3&l=9ce69bd3d4>

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***OPPG November Weekend/  
Tentative Agenda***

**Friday, November 16th:**

Florida Heritage Landmark Marker Dedication/Street Naming  
Ceremony/Block Party:  
11 a.m., at former Florida City Camp, Fl

Camp Nostalgia Celebration:  
6:30 p.m., at Miami Beach Resort and Spa, Miami Beach, Fl

**Saturday, November 17th:**

Thanksgiving Gala :  
6:30 p.m., at Miami Beach Resort and Spa, Miami Beach, Fl

**Sunday, November 18th:**

Thanksgiving Mass:  
10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, Miami Beach, Fl

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We have reserved a block of rooms at the Miami Beach Resort and Spa  
for our  
upcoming November weekend of events: November 16 to 18th.  
We start on Friday, November 16th in the morning, so it's better if you  
come the night before!!

**Miami Beach Resort and Spa**  
4833 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, Fl 33140

Double room/partial water view: \$129/per night.

Double room/Bay Front: \$ 149/per night.

You can make reservations at 305 532 3600 or through the following link:

**Direct URL for Attendee Registration (If use this URL, no login for attendee is needed):**

MSBE: [https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g\\_reservation.cfm?groupID=771495&hotelID=6577](https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g_reservation.cfm?groupID=771495&hotelID=6577)

iStay2: <http://booking.ihotelier.com/istay/istay.jsp?groupID=771495&hotelID=6577>

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***PEDRO PAN PLACE at former FLORIDA CITY Camp***

***On July 24th, 2012 at the request of OPPG  
the Florida City Council Meeting approved the naming of NW 2nd Ave.  
at the former Florida City Camp  
as PEDRO PAN PLACE***

***Here are some pictures from that memorable day that we want to  
share with all of you:***

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.491803404168006.129038.162818820399801&type=1&l=102c8142df>

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*Dr. Victor A Triay  
talks about  
Operation Pedro Pan*

*Date: Saturday, August 18th, 2012*

*Time: 4-6 pm*

*Place: Donahue Academy, Ave Maria, Fl*

4955 Seton Way, Ave Maria, Fl 34142

A group of Pedro Pans is planning to drive to Ave Maria, Fl after our monthly breakfast to go to Dr. Triay's Talk. Please let us know if you are planning to join us by writing to:

[members@pedropan.org](mailto:members@pedropan.org)

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# Stories about Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh

## # 8

### **The most Irish of all Cubans and the most Cuban of all Irish**

by Maria Cristina Beyra (Pepe Prince's wife)

I knew and I didn't know Msgr. Walsh. I wasn't but I was a Pedro Pan (a different version of it). I left Cuba in 1966 , with my sister when the "freedom flights" resumed. I was 15; she 17. By then the Cuban government did not allow males between the ages of 15-27 to leave the country, because they had a law in place - compulsory military service. What this range of ages did, was in effect skew the emigration during that period of time. Not too many small children came because their parents were in their 20's; many middle age people didn't come because their children were that age- like our parents and brothers. Although I do not have the statistical information for a profile of those who came in the freedom flights, the impression I have in my mind, is that it was largely made up of either parents (one or both) of children who were already here through Pedro Pan, or families with "only girls", or many young women. In any case the dismemberment of the families continued in a different way. In some cases, like in ours, never to be reunited again under one roof.

My late husband Jose Salvador Prince had already come to the United States in 1963, when the Pedro Pan operation was in full swing. At 22 years of age he had left Cuba by been smuggled into the Brazilian Embassy and had been able to get political asylum in Puerto Rico during a technical stop of the plane on its way to Brazil.

He made his way to Miami where his passion for Cuba got him involved in the Pedro Pan airlift. He got in touch with Msgr. Bryan Walsh who, like he used to say, was his first employer. Msgr. made him, and other Cuban young men, like Raul de la Cruz, counselors at the Matecumbe camp. They had a place to live, food on the table, a very small stipend and a feeling that they were doing something for Cuba.

Closer in age to the young boys, these young men became the older brothers of the children who poured into the camp. They lived there, sharing their fate and trying to console them. They were all new at these roles: "orphans" and "big brothers". He used to recount how sometimes after lights out they will hear young boys

crying inconsolably in their beds, and how they will try to take them outside, and cheer them up. They will play sports, and Sundays they will drive them to the beach in a van provided by the camp.

Many years later, as we were having dinner in a Miami restaurant with our children and some friends, a man, who was there with his wife and his own children, stood by our table, next to Pepe, and asked him: aren't you Pepe Prince? And when Pepe answered yes, without giving him a chance to stand up, as if moved by an uncontrollable impulse, stretched his arms and hugged him in such a way, that Pepe's face was by his stomach. His eyes filled up with tears. He went on to give his name, the year he was in Matacumbe, and say how many times he had cheered him up in the camp, and how grateful he was to the "escapades" with the counselors.

As the camps closed they all went on to try to "make it" in their new country. Soon they realized that the stay in the United States was not going to be a short one. Unable to continue fighting the government as he had done in Cuba, Pepe and many of those counselors changed gear to be able to have an impact in the direction of their native country. In time, after finishing his Bachelor's Degree Pepe moved to New York to attend the New School for Social Research and marry me. But all that belongs to another story. Three things remained constant in his life, Cuba, his faith and his family.

As far as Msgr. Bryan Walsh, he and Pepe always stayed very close. We always saw Msgr. Walsh when we went to Miami. He used to say that he was "the most Irish of all Cubans and the most Cuban of all Irish". On January 9, 1998, while on vacation in Miami, at age 56 Pepe suffered a massive heart attack that took his life. It was Msgr. Bryan Walsh who rushed to the Coral Gables Hospital to administer the last rites at 5:00 am. A mutual friend whom I had called in desperation phoned him immediately. Always the friend, always the priest, his presence made all the difference at that time.

Now Msgr. Walsh and Pepe are once again together. Not as employer and employee, not as Irish and Cuban, not as American and exiled but as children of the one Father they both so much believed in. I am sure that they still continue to intercede incessantly for Cuba and all its children.

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# Dear Pedro Pan Brothers and Sisters:

Save the Date Saturday September 29, 2012

Spend the day with

*Cuban Kids from the 60's Exodus* - Pedro Pan of  
California.

Join us for our 7th annual reunion at



## Hacienda Don Francisco

Details to follow in the coming weeks!

Save the Date Saturday September 29, 2012



*Until we meet again!*

*The Cuban Kids Working Group*

[CubanKid60Exodus@aol.com](mailto:CubanKid60Exodus@aol.com)

[www.cubankids1960.com](http://www.cubankids1960.com)

[Pedro Pan of California | Facebook](#)

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Future Events Calendar:



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

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

**Saturday, August 18, 2012 at 4-6 pm - Operation Pedro Pan by Dr. Victor Triay**

Place: Donahue Academy, 4955 Seton Way, Ave Maria, FI 34142

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

Place: TBA

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

Place: TBA

**Friday, November 16, 2012 at 11 AM - Florida Heritage Landmark Marker Dedication/**

**Street Naming Ceremony/Block Party**

Place: Former Florida City Camp, 155 NW 14th St., Florida City, FI 33034

**Friday, November 16, 2012 at 6:30 PM - Camp Nostalgia Celebration**

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

**Saturday, November 17, 2012 at 6:30 PM- Thanksgiving Gala**

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

**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: TBA

**Thursday, 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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