

February 23, 2010

First Reunion in Puerto Rico Report

- The Reunion was held on February 20th, 2010 at Restaurant Los Chavales, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico at 12 p.m.
- The organizers: Luis Gordillo (OPPG Trustee), Angel Carballo, and Rita Rodriguez. With the support and encouragement of Carmen Romanach (OPPG Board Director).
- Fifty-nine persons attended the event. (41 pedropans included)
- The registration table had a picture of Msgr. Walsh as a reminder of the man behind the success of Operation Pedro Pan.
- The event started by welcoming words by OPPG Trustee Luis Gordillo.
- Carmen Romanach made a presentation about OPPG, its origins and mission statement. Followed by announcement of future events in Miami and an open invitation to all to participate in this year's 50th Anniversary of our Exodus.
- Rita Rodriguez Pardinias, a pedropan and one of the organizers, made the Invocation before the lunch was served.
- There was a projector with a big screen where old pedropan pictures and pictures of events held at Miami were shown. This was a complete success!
- Present in the lunch were a Pedropan mother, Esperanza Escobar (84), an instructor of Camp Matecumbe, Eduardo Garcia and Margarita Kendall, whose mother Elodia (Yoya) Kendall, 87, worked in Cuba as part of the clandestine operation.
- The Reunion was a joyful one although there were also some tears as is usual in our meetings.
- The general consensus was one of happiness to be able to finally be able to meet and remember old times. There were many persons that knew each other for years and had no idea they were pedropans as well.
- Pedropans kept asking when will the next reunion be.
- A picture was taken at the end of the Reunion/Lunch of all pedropans present.