

Dear friends,

As we start this New Year 2013 with renewed enthusiasm and hope we thank all of you for your participation in our activities during this past year. By the end of January we will send some of the 2012 highlights with a blank membership form (included in this email too). New members to our organization are always welcomed!

OPPG starts each year with a Toy Distribution at Centro Hispano Catolico Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh. This year the Toy Distribution will be on January 8th. The kids are from 3 to 5 years of age and are always eager and happy to receive their toys from the Pedro Pan "Reyes Magos".

Please make plans to join us at Desayuno Martiano as we remember Jose Marti and our Cuban heritage every year during this time. The Desayuno Martiano will be on Saturday, January 26th, 2013 at Felix Varela Hall, across La Ermita de la Caridad.

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>



***January 2, 2013***

***Pedro Pan News***

Martí TV Special: 50 Años de la Operación Pedro Pan.  
If you didn't have the opportunity to watch Marti TV's Pedro Pan special on December  
24th, 2012,  
you can now watch it by clicking in the link below:

<http://www.martinoticias.com/media/video/17797.html>

## **Especial | 50 años de la Operacion Pedro Pan**

**Publicado 24 diciembre 2012**

Dic. 24 — Televisión Martí presenta “50 años de la Operación Pedro Pan”, un programa Especial sobre la ruta que llevó a tierras de libertad a miles de niños cubanos. Medio siglo después los protagonistas se reencuentran y rememoran uno de los capítulos más dramáticos de la historia del exilio cubano.

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2012 PICTURES  
THANKSGIVING GALA  
CAMP NOSTALGIA CELEBRATION  
FLORIDA HERITAGE LANDMARK  
PEDRO PAN PLACE UNVEILING

For those of you that still haven't been able to see the pictures of our November Weekend of Events, they have been posted in our website:

<http://www.pedropan.org/content/media-gallery>

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**Stories about Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh**

**# 13**

**Msgr. Bryan Walsh: A gentleman, a gentle man**  
by David Lawrence Jr.

Published in Miami Herald 12/23/2001 two days after Monsignor's passing.

He was my friend. And yours. Even if you didn't know that . Maybe you didn't even know him. He shared with everybody his great warmth and an Irish smile and arms wide open. No one embraced our community with more honest love and compassion than Monsignor Bryan Walsh.

We were friends for years, but I never called him by his first name. He always was "Monsignor". Despite his insistence. I never could, even on vacation. That was the way I was raised. The way I will always think of him. Most of all, it was the respect he deserved.

His obituary Friday reminded us of his fame for what he did to bring 14,000 Cuban children to America so that they would not grow up under a Communist dictatorship. But the greatness of the man, the Monsignor, is that he stood up for everybody. Every shade of skin. He was Irish Catholic to the core, and catholic-universal-just as deep.

If the Cubans hurt, he hurt and helped. If the Haitians hurt, he hurt and helped. If the African Americans hurt, he hurt and helped. If Jewish people hurt, he hurt and helped. That went for everybody.

A stereotypically “simple parish priest” he wasn’t. When the Dr. Joe Greer and Lawrence families went to Ireland with him as a guide a few years ago, we were not permitted to be frugal if it meant missing staying overnights in two expensive castles. He had sailboats, not big ones, in the two countries he loved the most-this one and his native Ireland, where he lived and wandered in his tiny boat for weeks on end.

He loved to eat, and he loved to talk. He was a good listener, too. He was a student of history and a man who loved books and loved to discuss them. What he loved-Ireland quickly comes to mind- he took great joy in sharing. Yes, he took time to smell the roses. I don’t remember him any happier than when he took us on a mid-afternoon stroll through an Irish park filled with roses.

They guy grew up in the grimy city of Limerick just around the corner from Frank McCourt, who later described those times in the bestseller Angela’s Ashes. He never forgot where he came from.

More than half of us in this community were born, like the Monsignor, in another country; most of the rest of us came from somewhere much different from Miami. No one worked harder than Monsignor Walsh to bring us together.

He loved politics, and he loved people. He wasn’t shy about saying what he thought. He said and thought things about how best to achieve a democratic Cuba, and other difficult matters, that others just didn’t like. Others took positions that were “easier”, more politically palatable. Not the Monsignor. He spoke up. Always graciously. Never harshly. A gentleman. A gentle man.

There are in our midst people of rock-hard integrity, people of gracious good humor, people of God-loving values, people of energetic purposefulness-and the very few who are all of these. Thank God for bringing us Bryan Walsh.

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## Annual Membership Form



A non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-profit 501C (3) charitable organization.

Please select one:            Renewal                     New Member                     Sponsor

Please select type of membership below:

**Active**  (Dues \$50) Those who arrived alone with a student visa or visa waiver through the Unaccompanied Cuban Children's Program, which began December 1960. Active members vote in the general elections, support and participate in our events and in the fundraising efforts of the organization and may serve on the Board of Directors after meeting the qualification requirements.

**Associate**  (Dues \$50) Any person in good standing in the community who wishes to contribute, support and participate in the endeavors of the organization is eligible. Includes all those who arrived alone and were not part of the Unaccompanied Cuban Children's Program. Associate members shall have no vote but may voluntarily serve on a committee.

**Corporate**  (Dues \$500) Companies and entities wishing to support the organization are eligible. The membership shall have no voting privileges except through the designated Active member, if any.

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

First

Middle/Maiden

Last

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to OPERATION PEDRO PAN GROUP, INC., and return to the address indicated below:**

**161 Madeira Avenue, Suite. # 61 • Coral Gables, FL 33134**

## **Future Events Calendar:**

### **Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at 10 AM- Toy Distribution**

Place: Centro Hispano Catolico Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh, 125 NW 25 St., Miami, FI 33127

### **Saturday, January 26, 2013 at 10 AM- Desayuno Martiano**

Place: Felix Varela Hall, 3609 South Miami Ave.,FI

### **Sunday, March 17, 2013 at 10 AM - Picnic**

Place: TBA

### **Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 10 AM - Election Breakfast**

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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