



Hospitalarios Antillanos



BOLETIN INFORMATIVO DE LA ASOCIACION CUBANA DE LA SOBERANA Y MILITAR ORDEN DE MALTA (R)

Association events: July-December 2009

It is my pleasure to submit to our members a summary of the most recent events of our Association during the past six months.

We continued our work with our Medical Mission to the Dominican Republic and at La Casita de Malta in the San Juan Bosco Parish in Miami. Our White Cross Gala fundraising dinner was also held in October, providing needed financial support for our charitable works in Cuba, Miami and the Caribbean.

Our efforts in Cuba have enabled us to open two new dining facilities for the elderly, which now are 43 in total, with the continued assistance of our supporters and benefactors. This year we had the added support of seven new donors, from the Colegio de Belen Class of 1959, celebrating their 50th Anniversary.

During the month of August three prelates from the United States visited Cuba. Cardinal Sean O'Malley and Bishops Thomas Wenski of Orlando and Tomas Cantu of San Antonio met with local priests and with the Ambassador of the Order of Malta in Cuba, H.E. Przemyslav Hauser.



They met briefly with Cuban government officials as well as with the head of the American Interests Section in Havana. As Bishop Wenski said, *"The main purpose of the visit, however, was to meet with church officials to express to them their solidarity and to offer them their support as they continue to seek to expand the space in which the church operates in a society whose government still adheres to communist ideology and practice."*

We continue to rely on the support of our members, volunteers, friends and benefactors to continue our charitable Works. I take this opportunity to thank them once more for their efforts in these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Fernando T. García-Chacón y Chacón,
Marquis of Salinas
Knight Grand Cross of Honour and Devotion in Obedience
President

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Medical Mission to the Dominican Republic, November 12-15, 2009

During the weekend of November 12th to 15th the semiannual medical mission of 2009 to the Hospital Manuel J. Centurion at ILAC Center, Licey al Medio medical facility in the Dominican Republic was undertaken, under the leadership of Doctors Jorge Echenique, MD and José Joaquín Centurión, MD both Knights of Malta and members of the Cuban Association, residing and practicing in South Florida.

As it has been the case for the past several years, 37 participants: thirteen doctors, seven nurses, five pharmacists and twelve volunteers, including their 25 heavy duffel bags of medical supplies, flew with the collaboration of American Airlines to the Dominican Republic from Miami, Florida. This has been the largest number of participants since the Missions began.



Their mission was to give medical assistance to more than 1,000 patients in this poor area, just a few miles outside Santiago de los Caballeros, the second largest city in the country. The doctors included specialists in cardiology, pediatric medicine, urology, gastroenterology, oncology, dentistry and internal medicine. Team members came from Florida, California, Colorado, Texas, Michigan, and Ohio.

They were locally assisted by the *Cooperadores de Salud*, a group of health workers who did the screening of the patients prior to the visit, and by a local radiologist and other supporting staff at the clinic. Over the four day mission, the doctors saw over 1,000 individual patients resulting in over 2,700 patient visits. The mission distributed free of charge medicines and other medical supplies valued at over \$100,000, including a supply for the following six months.

ILAC is a Catholic faith-based group that has a free-standing clinic near Santiago with three operating rooms and five exam rooms. ILAC has a system of health-care workers, called *Cooperadores de Salud*, who live in remote villages and perform health screenings. The *Cooperadores* bring surgical candidates to the clinic. It is a collaborative health care and educational organization that exists to promote the integral well-being and spiritual growth of all participants.

The small hospital at this facility, the Dr. Manuel J. Centurion Hospital, was made possible with a donation from the Huascar Rodriguez and Jose J. Centurion families, a local businessman and one of the MD members of the Cuban Association. Equipment for the surgical suites, recovery suites and examining suites were provided by many wonderful donors.

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Medical Mission to the Dominican Republic,

(from page 2)



New projects to be started by the Cuban Association involve medical care and education to very isolated communities (3) of Haitians living in markedly substandard conditions. These communities are called "bateys". At present time some of the *Cooperadores de Salud* bring in some of the "malades" from these communities who are noted to be in horrible condition suffering from malnutrition, HIV, tuberculosis etc with a very broad based age pyramid.

The Cuban Association conducts these missions not only because of the dire need for medical care in Latin America, but also uses them

as a training ground for its eventual and hoped for return to Cuba. To date over 1,000,000.00 US dollars have been given in medication alone in these missions. Also, over one million USD has been donated in professional services and equipment. These missions would not be possible if it were not for the assistance of the Angels of the Caribbean, the nursing auxiliary group of the Cuban Association.

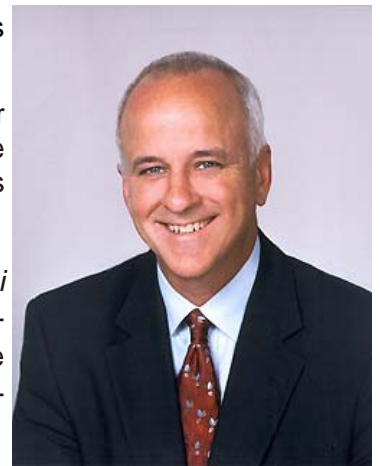
2009 White Cross Ball

On Saturday, October 24, the *Tuitio Fidei* Award was given to Mr. H. James Towey, a native of South Florida, because of his work with the poor and infirm. He is currently President of St. Vincent College, a Catholic, Benedictine college in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The ceremony took place at the Doral Golf and Spa Resort Hotel in Miami, Florida, during the White Cross Ball of the Cuban Association of the Order of Malta.

The White Cross Ball is our annual fund raising event supporting our charitable, medical and social services in Cuba, Miami and the Caribbean, where the *Tuitio Fidei* Award is presented to its distinguished recipients. At this year's event, more than \$100,000 in donations were collected.

The Cuban Association of the Order of Malta instituted the *Tuitio Fidei* Award in order to recognize and honor those who through their public actions witness the principles of our Faith. The recipients are honored because they live their life, public and private, consistent with the demands of our Faith notwithstanding the public condemnation.

Previous recipients include the Hon. Mel Martinez, former Senator from Florida, H. E. Sean Cardinal O'Malley, the Cardinal-Archbishop of Boston and Mr. Thomas S. Monahan, Chancellor of Ave Maria University, South Florida's newest private institution of higher learning.



La Casita de Malta social services

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Last November 2008 we established the food bank “La Casita de Malta” at Nuestra Señora de Filermo Assistance Center of the parish of San Juan Bosco of Miami. Ms. Berta Parajon and her group of volunteers have been distributing food to the poor twice a week with the help of members of the Cuban Association of the Order of Malta and other contributors. We have received the wholehearted support of the Parish priest, the Reverend Juan Carlos Paguaga , since this project began in 2008.



In addition to food, the ladies are given lessons in sewing, ironing and other skills to improve their work capabilities, and they and their children are taught at Saturday classes the fundamentals of catholic doctrine and teachings, as well as family values.

As part of this effort, the women volunteers conducted last Thanksgiving a distribution of Turkeys and related food products appropriate for that Holiday.

This December, as was done last year, there was a distribution of toys during a Christmas party for over 200 children and their respective mothers, which was very successful, as it was in 2008.

During the year, we were able to publish two videos of our activities at <http://www.youtube.com/user/LaCasitadeMalta>. There you will see the effective work of our dame volunteers at this facility.

We welcome your support, both with monetary and food donations, in support of this worthy cause.

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