



## **NICARAGUAN CELEBRATES “TOPE DE SANTO DOMINGO” FOR 17th CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, August 11, 2017.** At the end of the 19th century, in Managua, Nicaragua, the discovery, surrounded by mysticism, of a small Catholic statuette of Saint Dominic (Santo Domingo de Guzmán) provoked the start and evolution of a massive traditional festivity that is colorful and full of fervor and happiness which ultimately transformed into patron saint festivities of the capital city.

In Kenner, for the seventeenth consecutive year, the Asociación Nicaragüense de Louisiana (ANDELA) will present El Tope de Santo Domingo. The event will be held on Saturday, August 12, from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Kenner Heritage Park, located at 303 Williams Boulevard. Highlights this year will include a representation of Santo Domingo’s arrival preceded by a parade that enters the park to the rhythms of folkloric music and featuring popular characters that are typically Nicaraguan, such as the “Gigantona,” a gigantic woman that dances to the sound of drums, the “Cabezón,” her short and big-headed dance partner and the life-size bull and cows who all dance around the saint as he parades through the park. Young women dressed in folkloric costumes will also accompany the colorful parade. Later on, there is the crowning of the “India Bonita,” (Queen of the Festival). The festival is followed by a dance-party featuring a popular local musician, who will be playing folkloric music, salsa and Latin-dance music. Typical Hispanic dishes and refreshments will be served.

The event is open to the public and net proceeds from donations and sponsorships will be used for the annual purchase of Christmas toys for disadvantaged children.

Hispanics have always had a strong influence in Louisiana starting when it was a Spanish colony in 1762 until it was turned over to the French in 1802. Since 1812, when Louisiana became a state, Hispanics have continued to influence and contribute to the growth and well being of Louisiana. This is especially true in Kenner, where the celebration of “Tope De Santo Domingo” now on its 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary takes on an even greater meaning because of the size of the Hispanic community, its growth, contribution to its economy and the sharing of its rich culture with all communities.

For information call: 504-464-4619 or 504-466-1483