



# CITY OF KENNER

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**MICHAEL S. YENNI**  
MAYOR

**EMILE LAFOURCADE**  
ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR,  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 6, 2010**

### **NICARAGUA ASSN. OF LA. SPONSORS SANTO DOMINGO FESTIVAL**

#### **Patron of Managua, other Latin Nations Honored**

Kenner's Heritage Park, in the heart of old Rivertown, will be the focal point Saturday, August 14, for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual observance of "El Tope de Santo Domingo," Sponsored by the Nicaragua Association of Louisiana.

Rafael Saddy, events coordinator for the organization, said the celebration, which runs from 3 to 10 p.m., will feature music and other entertainment, special Hispanic cuisine, folklore dances and dresses and the selection of a festival queen.

Saddy said at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in Managua, there was the discovery of a small statuette of St. Dominic that was believed to have mystical powers and it soon became an object popularly sought after for viewing by a growing number of people.

Dominic de Guzman was popular in the New World and New Orleans as the founder of the Dominican Order of priests and nuns. The Order of Preachers, as they are known, staffed a college, a high school and several church parishes in this region.

But the small statuette in Managua, Saddy said, provoked the start and evolution of a massive traditional festivity there that is colorful and full of fervor and happiness which ultimately transformed into patron saint festivities of the capital city. Every August, mostly on the first days and on the tenth of the month several major streets in Managua are filled with people who come to celebrate "Minguito," the festival of the fondly remembered little statuette.

With the arrival of a growing number of Nicaraguans and other Caribbean Latinos to this area in recent years, El Tope de Santo Domingo and its related culture finds itself being transplanted to Kenner. For more information, contact Rafael Saddy at 464-4619.

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