

## Miracles

*“Life is made of miracles”* so says a quote I saw recently. What is a miracle? I think of big things like Jesus walking on water or feeding the multitudes with five loaves and two fishes. However if we open our eyes we can see that miracles do indeed happen around us every day. Nowhere is that more evident than in our sister parish of Sagrada Familia in the Dominican Republic.

I have gone on the mission trip every year since 2006. In that time I have seen many changes for the better. There is now a large, new nutrition center serving several hundred children daily where there was once a rundown building able to accommodate only a small number of children three times a week. The original small building has been transformed into a doctor’s clinic and physical therapy center. That is a miracle.

A single, African style beehive oven has grown into a cooperative bakery turning out several different kinds of bread daily to serve the people of the village. That is a miracle.

A man working 2 jobs to support his young family has been given the opportunity to expand his pig farm and improve his family’s life. That is a miracle.

A young man who had suffered an accident and lost his eye was given a prosthetic eye. His face and life were transformed. That is a miracle.

Several families now have new, sturdy homes where ramshackle huts once stood. The most recent home was built for a woman with three handicapped daughters. When the house was finished she told Father Juan Manuel, *“All the prayers of my whole life have been answered.”* That is a miracle.

When people of God work together miracles happen. Thanks to all who have supported the people of Sagrada Familia through your prayers and contributions.

----Pat Mangi, St. Mary Parish