

# The “Miracle” of *Nuevo Paraíso*

The New Paradise in *La Sagrada Familia Parish*:  
A Noel Christmas Story





The raging storm called Noel severely damaged large areas of *La Sagrada Familia* parish in 2007.



## Noel

### Restoring Christmas for Sagrada Familia

Tropical Storm Noel (which is French for Christmas) hit *La Sagrada Familia Parish* in late October. More than 20 inches of rain fell over four days, washing away crops, roads, and homes. The village of Kilometer 15 must be completely relocated and rebuilt because of the storm.

*The Archdiocese of Milwaukee is working to restore the lives and homes of families in Sagrada Familia, and, in so doing, restore the joy of the word "Noel" during this holy season.*

*To that end, a donation to Sagrada Familia has been made in your name by \_\_\_\_\_.*

*This donation will help rebuild and repair homes which were damaged or destroyed by the storm.*

Sample Donation Card

Very quickly the generous people of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee sent funds to help their Sister Parish move a community from a flood plain to a safe location.





When the flood waters raged....



homes were filled inside...





and out...



This man is indicating the height to which the water rose in this home

In Kilometer 15, the water rose over  
the heads of the people, gravely  
endangering them.





The man (right) and his son (left) saved the man in the center from drowning.

Neighbors rescued each other; none died.





Moving the village of over 30 families  
was no longer a question.



An agricultural organization donated the land.





The building began with resources from their Sister Archdiocese in Southeastern Wisconsin.





New homes started to appear because,  
again...





...neighbors helped each other.



During that first year, the homes began to form a neighborhood.





The view from the hillside changed considerably from 2008....



...to 2009. Some rooftops are now barely visible as the homes are surrounded by plants for food and flowers.





Now with electricity and running water...



...it is easy to see why they call  
their new community:  
*El Nuevo Paraíso*—The New Paradise.





The people say *iMil Gracias!*—a thousand expressions of gratitude—to their family in Southeastern Wisconsin!





**Thank you!**