



## HOST COMMUNITY IN AMBATOLAMPY (MADAGASCAR) SYNTHIA'S STORY: ACTING TOGETHER TO HELP REBIRTH

On 04 February 2021, a parishioner accompanied by 3 women came knocking at our gate. They came to explain an unsolvable problem and to be helped to find a solution. One of the three women, Mrs Berthine, has two boys aged 9 and 4, a physically disabled sister and a 16-year-old sister. The latter worked as a house cleaner in a family in Tananarive. In September 2020, her boss brought her back to her sister's house without a penny and in a state close to madness: shouting, escaping from the house, saying horrible things, eating anything, ... Her sister Berthine took her to her uncle's house in Ankaratra. But at the beginning of February 2021, the uncle could no longer keep her and left her with her elder sister. Her sister is already struggling to find work to feed the family. She cannot leave Synthia alone at home. Where can she find food for four or five persons?

Sr Angelina, who went to check the story, found things as they were told so the community looked with her for a way to help the family. After much thought and discussion, we decided to start by giving them daily material and financial assistance. The most urgent thing was to find a place where Synthia could be cured. After many steps and phone calls, we were able to reach the Brothers of Saint John of God in Manakambahiny Tanà who accepted to receive her. But we had to find a car to take her there, and pay the necessary spending, which we could not fully provide in the long term. The salvation came from our deputy who took in charge all the costs until Synthia's complete recovery, may God bless him!

On February 12, she met the doctors; as soon as she took the first medicine, she calmed down, was able to sleep and the whole family with her.

It is now her 4th visit to the doctor, Synthia's transformation is surprising: she speaks intelligently, reasons ... because we made her come to the community to test her level of mental balance. She is happy to be with us again and to do small services. On Easter day, after the morning Mass, she came to our house and we shared the Easter meal together. What a joy to see her progress! In this picture, Synthia is the one with a black and white striped jumper and short hair.



What a joy for us to live this experience of Resurrection of this small family, and our thanks go to the Risen Jesus who accompanied us. Our warm thanks to Sr Angelina who gave a huge amount of her time and her heart, and to our deputy. Without him, what could we have done?

***Host community in Ambatolampy***