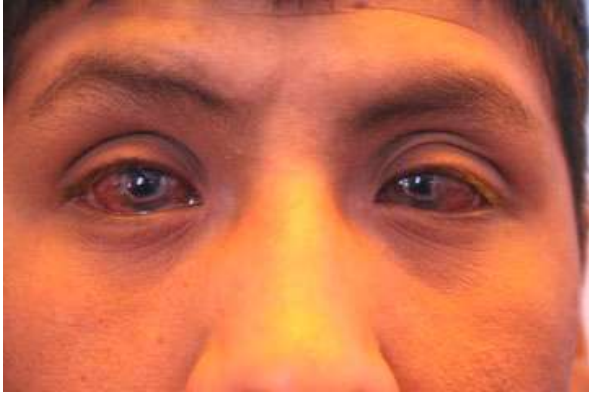


Operation of Diego

Thank you for your prayers and support for Diego Apaza Navarro. In October of this year, a delegation from St. Mary of the Valley, Monroe; Holy Family, Seattle and Queen of Angels, Port Angeles visited his family in their home. Because of their extreme poverty they had not obtained medical attention for Diego. One member of the delegation, Michelle Palmer, works as a nurse at Seattle Children's Hospital. When she examined Diego's eyes, she was concerned, saying that he needs medical care immediately. Obst. Luz



Marron, director of the Mary Bloom Center, took Diego to an ophthalmologist, first in Puno, then in Arequipa, a major city an eight-hour bus ride from Puno. The doctor diagnosed him with "Queratocono Queratoconjuntivitis Actinica." The Peruvian ophthalmologist said that this disease strikes about one in every 200,000 children and that it manifests itself in adolescence. As you can see from the picture of Diego's eyes, the disease has caused severe degeneration of the cornea. Diego told me he experiences blurred and multiple vision problems. After almost two months of anti-inflammatory eye-drops, Diego received medical intervention on December 15. Luz arranged for Diego's dad to accompany him to Arequipa and stay with him during the time of the treatment. He had a second operation on December 17 (on his right eye). Here are pictures of Diego after the operations:



Dr. Corrales of Arequipa, Peru, performing the eye operation:



Diego with his dad and Obst. Luz Marron (director of Mary Bloom Center)

