

CAMP NEW HAPPENINGS NORTHERN INDIANA

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After two years of very intense planning, Camp New Happenings Northern Indiana operated its first summer camp season August 10-16 at Sharing Meadows located in Rolling Prairie, IN. The camp facilities include a lake, swimming pool, basketball court, state of the art kitchen, separate dormitory facilities for males and females, fire pit and spacious areas for dining as well as suitable for large group activities.

The staff consisted of : a camp director, (5) counselors, a certified lifeguard, an arts and crafts instructor and a chaplain. All staff were highly qualified. The counselors are students at Notre Dame, Calvin College and Indiana University. The arts and crafts instructor has numerous degrees in the field of art and the chaplain was our own Rev. Tina Velthuisen. The camp director was excellent.

There were eight (8) campers (3) boys and (5) girls. The boys were from Ft. Wayne Merrillville and Valparaiso. The girls were from Valparaiso and Gary. Eight (8) boys and girls were registered from South Bend, Elkhart and Goshen, however, the parents obviously were unaware of the early opening of schools thus reducing the total number. Additionally, we know that a close relationship must be developed with parent/guardian. This problem is being addressed through a number of different avenues,- such as developing the Angel Tree program within our parishes.

The daily camp schedule included the usual summer camp activities to include but not limited to calisthenics, swimming, boating, fishing, sports, arts and crafts and Christian education, games and free time. The weather was cooperative so all of the outdoor activities were held as scheduled. In the evenings, campers gathered around the fire pit for singing and recapping the day as they experienced it.

The campers enjoyed the Christian education program which consisted of studying a biblical character such as Daniel, Joseph and Esther and/or a renown notable such as Bishop Tutu and Mother Teresa. For example, they heard the biblical story about Daniel as well as the word associated with him such as "courage". This format was followed daily for each character. Additionally, the campers referred to the new words associated with the daily character (s) throughout the day. A counselor played the guitar so there was quite a lot of singing (hymns such as "Here I am Lord" and "Sanctuary").

We thank Bishop Little, Diocesan Staff and the people of the Diocese for their support.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte A. Strowhorn, Project Coordinator

9-4-08

