

February 28, 2010

Dear brothers and sisters,

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’” (Jeremiah 29:11). This biblical promise, uttered hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, finds powerful fulfillment in the ministry of Camp New Happenings. This summer, dozens of children will experience “hope and a future” through this amazing outreach project.

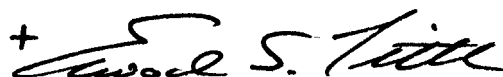
The Diocese of Northern Indiana, joining Christians from a number of traditions and working with an ecumenical board led by Charlotte Strowhorn of St. Augustine’s, Gary, is privileged to sponsor Camp New Happenings – a camp for the children of inmates. In 2008, nine children participated. A year later, the number had tripled to 27. We expect that this summer’s offering – July 11 through 17 – will see similar growth, as word about Camp New Happenings continues to spread through the inmate family community.

We offer this program free of charge. The children enjoy music, worship, water sports, study, and arts and crafts, all in a positive and encouraging environment and led by a dedicated and well-trained staff. Studies show that up to 70% of the children of inmates ultimately find themselves incarcerated as well. What a heartbreaking statistic! Through the ministry of Camp New Happenings, we are seeking to provide an alternative, and to turn despair into hope. Camp New Happenings is a sign of the transforming power of Jesus himself. It is an expression of the core values of the diocese, and indeed of the Gospel itself.

We’ve designated February 28 as Camp New Happenings Sunday in the Diocese of Northern Indiana. Your offerings are essential. Our goal is to be able to provide a place for every child who wishes to attend Camp New Happenings, and we can only do that with your support. Please give generously in the envelope provided. Your gift will help to change lives and to offer “hope and a future” to God’s children.

With all blessings I am

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward S. Little". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross symbol above the first letter of the first name.

The Rt. Rev. Edward S. Little II
Bishop of Northern Indiana