First roots of faith in Bradford County remembered during annual Mass at French Azilum Historic Site

Returning to the first roots of the Catholic faith in Bradford County, where they were originally planted, Father Ed Michelini from Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Towanda began a new tradition four years ago.

Once a year, on a Sunday in July, Father Michelini offers Mass at the French Azilum Historic Site, accompanied by parishioners and visitors. The Board of Directors at the French Azilum Site welcomes this event each year on their calendar as another living link to its past history.

This year's Mass was celebrated on Sunday, July 25, 2021. Father Michelini recalled not only our grandparents and the elderly, for the celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, but also the region's ancestors in faith, and the intrepid French settlers who made Bradford County home.

Many aristocrats fled the violence of the French Revolution by coming to America in the late 18th century. The group of refugees who came to this area had an additional goal — to establish a place of refuge for their Queen, Marie Antoinette, and her two children, hence the name “Azilum,” which means asylum or safety.

For More Information

Art & Architecture Tour of Cathedral of Saint Peter to take place Friday

For More Information
Since its dedication, the twin towers of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton have been a downtown landmark. Everyone is invited to gain a new perspective of this historic building through its art and architecture.

On Friday, August 6 at 7:00 p.m., Monsignor Rupert, Cathedral Pastor, will offer a tour highlighting the numerous frescoes, stained glass windows, mosaics, and other works of art which bring to life our local history.

The Valenches Music Company will be performing live music on the porch of the Cathedral starting at 6 p.m.

The tour is presented in conjunction with First Friday Scranton.

For More Information on the Art & Architecture Tour of the Cathedral

Registration underway for 2021 Catechist Camp
The Diocese of Scranton Office for Parish Life is planning a one-day Catechist Camp for everyone involved in catechetical ministry or family-oriented faith formation.

The one-day camp sessions will be presented in three locations of our Diocese from Aug. 17-19, 2021.

The format of each day will include a welcome prayer followed by the session, "Reclaiming the Light" presented by Jen Housel. Each day will also have sessions: "Reclaiming the Value of Catechesis" presented by Jacki Douglas and creating the "Perfect Faith Formation Experience" by Ruth Fried/Kristin Travis.

The sessions will take place at Saint Lawrence Parish in Williamsport on Tuesday, Aug. 17 from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton will host the Catechist Camp on Wednesday, Aug. 18 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The final presentation will take place on
Thursday, Aug. 19 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Saint Luke Parish in Stroudsburg.

Please join us at the location that is most convenient for you. Cost of the day is $20. For more information, contact Jacki Douglas at (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100.

Register Online for Catechist Camp 2021
Only Jesus reveals true Gospel, pope says at first audience after surgery
The true Gospel has been revealed by Jesus Christ, not by individuals or founders of movements, Pope Francis said during his weekly general audience.

“With the truth of the Gospel, one cannot negotiate. Either you receive the Gospel as it is, as it was announced,” or one embraces something else, he said Aug. 4 to those gathered in the Paul VI audience hall at the Vatican.

“One cannot compromise. Faith in Jesus is not a bargaining chip; it is salvation, it is encounter, it is redemption. It cannot be sold off cheaply,” said the pope, as he led his first general audience since his colon surgery July 4 and after the usual suspension of general audiences for the month of July.

Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service

House's refusal to include Hyde Amendment in Spending Bills is called an 'injustice'
The refusal by the U.S. House to include the Hyde Amendment and other pro-life riders in appropriations bills before lawmakers passed the measures is an “injustice” that overshadows the provisions that help “vulnerable people,” said the chairmen of two U.S. bishops’ committees.

Late July 29, the House voted 219 to 208 in favor of H.R. 4502, a package of appropriations bills that currently exclude the Hyde, Weldon and Helms amendments and other longstanding, bipartisan-supported pro-life language.

Eliminating these provisions would force taxpayers to pay for elective abortions and would have the effect of forcing health care providers and professionals “to perform and refer for abortion against their deeply-held beliefs, as well as forcing employers and insurers to cover and pay for abortion,” said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in a news release issued after the vote.

Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service
Several parishes across the Diocese of Scranton are in the process of holding or planning summer events now that COVID-19 guidelines are beginning to ease.

The Diocese of Scranton's Communications Office has a list of all summer bazaars, picnics and festivals that have been submitted thus far. The list will continue to be updated as new events are submitted.