



## Lil' Red Wagon

of the Servant of God Julia Greeley

official newsletter of  
**The Julia Greeley Guild**  
a ministry of  
Curé d'Ars Parish, Denver

**Thirteenth Issue 6.13.2017**

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### Julia Back in Denver ►

With the blessing of the Vatican's Congregation for the Cause of Saints, authorizations from Denver area civic authorities, and the permission of Archbishop Samuel Aquila, the remains of the Servant of God **Julia Greeley** are now, not only back in Denver, but they are in a place of honor in the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, which was dedicated just six years before **Julia's** death in 1918.

The move was an official part of the process of seeking canonization, and was aimed at making the Servant of God's remains more accessible to the faithful who wished to pray at her tomb.

**Julia** is the first person buried in the cathedral, and Auxiliary Bishop Jorge Rodríguez-Novelo, who presided over the

ritual transfer of her remains into the cathedral on June 7, joyfully pointed out that the first person buried in the cathedral was not a bishop or a priest, but a lay woman, a former slave. This received immediate and loud applause from the approximately 500 friends of Julia gathered for the historic event.

### Removal from Mt. Olivet ►

The transferal was not a single-day affair. It had begun May 26 with a ritual presided over by the Archbishop himself, during which he first blessed the gravesite in Wheat Ridge CO, where Julia was interred on June 10, 1918.

He then witnessed the oaths of numerous officials of the exhumation who swore to perform their duties professionally in identifying and safeguarding Julia's remains. These included the archbishop himself, members of the archdiocesan tribunal and officials of the diocesan phase of the Cause, archaeologists and other scientists from Metro State University, and employees of Mt. Olivet cemetery.



The site of Julia's grave is covered by the green tent in this photo taken from afar by a visitor to the cemetery who made it available to the media.

Present also were Dr. Waldery Hilgeman, the Roman postulator; Br. Reginald Cruz CSX, his assistant; and David Uebbing, local vice-postulator; as well as a number of invited guests, including members of the Julia Greeley Guild, Capuchin Poor Clare nuns, and members of the Secular

Franciscan Order to which Julia belonged the last 17 years of her life.

The exhumation was a private ceremony and representatives of the media were turned away from the exhumation and invited to cover the actual transfer of the remains to the cathedral at a later date.

Denver's Channel 9 found a way to cover the earlier event by interviewing two women who had been making arrangements for a funeral, saw the excitement at Julia's grave, and became excited themselves about what was going on.

The piece by Noel Brennan that aired that evening revealed that while the archdiocesan ceremony was going on in Section 8, Block 7, Lot 5, several firefighters arrived at Mt. Olivet's main office in full gear ready to deal with a fire.



Since Julia is well known for her remarkable friendship and association with Denver firemen, Brennan noted how fitting it was that firefighters should show up at Mt. Olivet even as Julia's body was being sought. Turns out they were there for a false alarm in the cemetery's offices, and one of the women being interviewed mused of Julia, "I think personally that she set off that fire alarm."

### Longer Than Expected ►

Invitations to the exhumation listed it as lasting from 9 am to 1 pm on May 26. In reality the work at the grave lasted six days. Earlier sonar inspection of the site had suggested the top of the coffins was only

about 18 inches below the surface. Only by 5:30 the first day did forensic anthropologist Dr. Christine Pink and her associate Jessica Filipeli arrive at a top corner of the wooden coffin, which turned out to be buried at six feet right under the marker placed there by the Urquharts in 1956.



Excavation began with shovels wielded by five gravediggers, but eventually ground down to discovery by small brushes and other tiny tools wielded with scientific carefulness.

By the end of the second day, Dr. Pink had uncovered the top of the coffin which at some point over the 99 years had collapsed over Julia's remains. The wood of the coffin was still recognizable but mostly pulverized.

Starting from the head of the seven foot coffin, over the next three days, this layer of wood fragments was very gradually removed exposing the skeleton, which



The skull was first bone to appear. At the bottom can be seen a rib of the coffin top which would need to be removed to expose the skeleton. Photo by Anya

Semenoff. © Archdiocese of Denver

proved to be in generally good condition, and remarkably complete—missing only one very tiny bone from one finger, but containing an extra rib. Only four

teeth were found. Also recovered were four rosary beads, a crucifix, a medallion, and six metal coffin handles.



Archbishop Aquila and others made frequent visits to the grave site during the six days that Julia's frame was slowly reappearing at the brush strokes of anthropologist Dr. Christine Pink (in grave) and her assistant Jessica Filipeli. Photo by Anya Semenov.

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Examination of the bones by Dr. Pink revealed that Julia was about five foot one in height and suffered from severe arthritis in her spine, legs, and hands—which must have made it quite painful to walk monthly to all the fire houses.

It was not possible to pin down Julia's age at death, which various witnesses had earlier placed at anything between 65 and 95.

During the next several days the bones were cleaned and studied by Dr. Pink in a secure room in the cemetery mortuary and prepared for their removal to the cathedral.

### Mass Nearly Fills Church ►

Meanwhile on June 2, Bishop Rodríguez was the main celebrant and homilist for the annual evening Mass at Sacred Heart Church commemorating the 99th anniversary of **Julia's** death. Concelebrants were Frs. Blaine Burkey OFMCap, Timothy McMahon SJ, Faustinus Anyamele, Ronald



Cattany, Regis Scanlon OFMCap, Bill Oulvey SJ, Christopher Popravak OFMCap, and Al Panqueva. Serving as deacons were Clarence McDavid and Darrick Leier.



About 200 of **Julia's** Friends attended, and music was again provided by the Joyful Noise youth choir from Curé d' Ars Church.



photos of this event by Jean Torkelson.

David and Marianne Arling (front left), co-ministers of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, to which Julia belonged from 1901 till her death, were joined at the Mass by numerous friar and secular Franciscans. The Sodality from Sacred Heart Church also attended as a group.

Following the Mass, Guild members sponsored a reception in the church basement. The bishop's marvelous sermon centered on Julia's aiding all of us in our common calling to become saints. It was not

available as we “went to press,” but we definitely will feature it in Issue 14.

## Friends Saw Her Close Up ►

On June 7, exactly 99 years after Julia left for “the pearly gates,” her mortal remains made it to the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception..



In a private ceremony in a room off the church vestibule Dr. Christine Pink, the medical expert, and David Uebbing, the vice-postulator, presented Julia’s bones to Bishop Rodríguez, and to the tune of St. Francis of Assisi’s *All Creatures of Our God and King*, he and various officials of the Cause carried them in solemn procession to the entrance to the sanctuary.



©Associated Press

There they were placed on a white table where Bishop Rodríguez in prayer welcomed “this great daughter of our Archdiocese” and affirmed the

congregation’s faith in the Communion of Saints and Resurrection of the Body.

Then after a penitential act and reading from Ezekiel’s vision of the dry bones that came to life (37: 1-14), and the reading and exhibiting of documents to and from the Vatican Congregation authorizing the transfer of Julia’s remains to the cathedral, His Excellency preached on the significance of the occasion, again affirming the Resurrection of the Body and Communion of Saints and noting the improved ability of the faithful to venerate Julia privately, yet fittingly and appropriately.



Mother Maria de Cristo, abbess of the Capuchin Poor Clares, was then invited to come forward and cover the bones with a brown tunic similar to the habit in which Julia was earlier buried in as a secular Franciscan. Bishop Rodríguez blessed the habit and then returned it to the nuns for the creation of third-class relics. These are the only relics that will be available until if and when Julia is someday beatified, when first-class relics (tiny fragments of her bones) might be available on a very limited basis.

The bishop next blessed the new casket, a 3 x 1.5 x 1.5 foot funerary box made of exotic purpleheart wood (*erythroxylon mexicanum*, also known as redheart wood). Red was Julia’s favorite color; it is the color of the Sacred Heart, and she had a red wagon and gave away red rosaries and red Sacred Heart badges.



The box had two compartments, one for Julia's skull and the other for all the other relics: bones, dirt that surrounded her bones, and parts of her wooden coffin. All of these were neatly arranged in the box, and then a temporary Plexiglas cover was installed, and the entire congregation invited to come and view for the last time and reverence Julia's mortal remains.



This part of the ceremony was proportionally the longest, but it had a special nostalgia to it, since over 1,000 people were said to have viewed and revered Julia's body for over five hours just 99 years earlier at the little chapel at 2536 Ogden St. (now occupied by the Evangelist Temple Church of God in Christ).

Noteworthy was the presence of a large number of young children—since Julia herself was known to have a special place in her heart for children.



Next the entire event was notarized, official documents inserted in the box and the wooden top was screwed on, each screw sealed with gold wax, and a single large red ribbon wrapped around all sides of the box and tied and sealed with official seals of the archdiocese.



The funerary box was then carried in procession to its final resting place where it was then encased in a large Plexiglas cover, which in the next six months will be replaced with a Carrara marble sarcophagus.

The box now rests right at the foot of a heroic-sized crucifix, which again is quite appropriate, since at Sacred Heart Church, Julia herself chose and rented a pew right at the bottom of a similar-sized crucifix.



Watching guard in this northwest corner of the transept are statues of a guardian angel and Julia's Franciscan brother, St. Anthony of Padua and St. Therese, the Little Flower.

### **National Coverage** ►

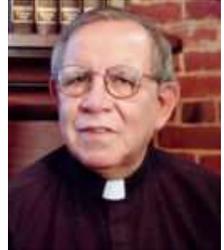
Colleen Slevin of the Associated Press posted a fine article on the Transfer of Julia's Remains to the Cathedral which was widely carried by the American media. It has been seen from San Francisco to Minneapolis to Philadelphia to Tampa and and even Denver.

### **Special Friends Honored** ►

Guild members voted at April and May monthly meetings to award **Honorary Lifetime Memberships** to four of Julia's Friends whose contributions were of extreme importance in bringing about the opening of Julia's Cause for Canonization.

Receiving the awards were Fr. Marcus Medrano, son and former pastor of Sacred Heart Parish; Ms. Mary Frances O'Sullivan; Sr. Mary Prudence Allen RSM, and Fr. Gene Emrisek, OFM Cap, also a former pastor of Sacred Heart.

**Fr. Marcus Medrano** is remembered for his sponsoring Sacred Heart Masses near the anniversaries of Julia's death at her grave at Mt. Olivet in the 1990s and for commissioning Mary Frances O'Sullivan to collect information about Julia Greeley so the parish could more appropriately honor and encourage devotion to her.

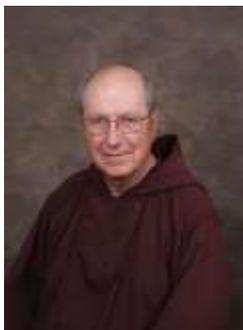


[Mary Frances O'Sullivan received her award at Julia's new tomb in the Cathedral Basilica immediately after the transferal ceremony on June 7.](#)

**Ms. Mary Frances O'Sullivan** in 1994 contacted Fr. Pacificus "Pax" Kennedy OFM who had interviewed numerous acquaintances of Julia in the 1970s and researched and written two magazine articles about the Servant of God. Kennedy, who by then was in his 90s living in Boston, gave Mary Frances copies of all of his notes as well as the negative for the only known photo of Julia. Sullivan made copies of the notes and gave a complete set to the archdiocesan archives; one to Dr. Tom Noel, who gave his to the Denver Public Library; and a third to Max Castillo, who in 2012

gave it to Fr. Blaine Burkey. Ms. O'Sullivan also encouraged the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of St. Peter Claver at Curé d'Ars Church to begin sponsoring scholarships in Julia's honor in 1995; wrote an article for the *Register* which prompted two letters to the editor; and gave impressive enlargements of Julia's photo to Sacred Heart and Curé d'Ars churches.

**Sr. Mary Prudence Allen**, a former philosophy professor at St. John Vianney Seminary and world-renowned scholar on the nature and dignity of women, encouraged the founders of ENDOW to adopt Julia as their model and to issue awards annually in Julia's honor to a woman who followed Julia's example. Sister also announced at the Archbishop's Lecture series in April of 2011, with Archbishop Charles Chaput present, that Julia was a woman in the archdiocese who should be canonized. From then on she encouraged and assisted Fr. Blaine in his compiling and editing of *In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart* and served in the Guild.



At about the same time as the book was being written in 2011, **Fr. Gene Emrisek** called together in the Julia Greeley Room at Sacred Heart Church representatives of the many groups of people who were known to be

interested in seeing the cause for Julia go forward, and at that meeting on Aug. 1, 2011, the Julia Greeley Guild was born. Until he was reassigned to Colorado Springs in 2012, Father remained a staunch supporter and protector of the Guild.

For the indispensable roles which each of these Friends played in Julia's cause, the Guild is eternally grateful.

### From the Archives ►

Less than two weeks after Julia's death, the *Denver Catholic Register* for June 20, 1918, found an unusual way to keep the Servant of God's name alive.

#### 4 PIONEER MEMBERS OF PARISH DIE IN FEW DAYS

Four of the oldest members of the Sacred Heart parish have answered the call of the Death Angel recently. They are Mrs. Annie Nixon, Miss Kate Cassidy, Mr. Joseph Walsh and Miss Julia Greeley.

Rarely does one find more pioneer citizens gathered than were at the funeral of Joseph Walsh last Saturday morning. The Rev. William Lonergan, S.J., was celebrant of the Solemn High Mass, the Rev. Mark W. Tappen was deacon and the Rev. Joseph Hyde, S.J., was sub-deacon. The Rev. A.F. Brucker, S.J., the Rev. F.X. Gubitosi, S.J., and the Rev. M.F. Callanan, P.R., were in the sanctuary. Father Lonergan spoke.

Every morning of the year, during his long residence in the Sacred Heart parish, Mr. Walsh attended the 6 o'clock Mass. He was always present, too, at the parish High Mass on Sundays. His store, near the church, in years past has been a famous visiting place for the old timers.

Born in Dublin in 1849, Joseph John Walsh was in Denver by 1870 in the employ of a railroad. He later ran a tea and coffee business at 2759 Larimer St., just across from Sacred Heart Church. Joseph married Canadian-born Margaret Wilson by whom, he had three daughters and a son also named Joseph John Walsh.

The father served one term as county commissioner and another in the state legislature. He was also a charter member of

the K. of C. and active in the management of the St. Vincent Aid Society. The son, born in 1888, was an attorney and later served as chief judge of the city-county circuit court.



The older Joseph Walsh and his wife Margaret are at the foot of large WALSH monument 230 yards northwest of Julia's former grave. Above Joseph is the grave of their daughter Eva and above her their son Judge Joseph (right) and his wife Agnes. Margaret helped plan Julia's funeral and one of the Josephs was a pallbearer. Eva and Agnes gave Fr. Kennedy information on Julia in 1974. Photo by Br. Augustine Rohde

The Walshes were among Julia's closest friends, and it was probably the older Mrs. Joseph Walsh who helped arrange for Julia's funeral, just a few days before her own husband's death on June 11. And either her husband or her son served as a pallbearer at Julia's funeral on June 10.

### Music Celebrates Julia's Life ►

Sarah Perske, Denver-area composer, classical guitarist, and public relations director for the Nebula Ensemble presented her latest composition, "Voices of Colorado



Women: **Julia Greeley**," during a student concert in Hamilton Recital Hall at D.U.'s Lamont School of Music, the evening of April 29.

Ms. Perske was fascinated to discover that **Julia** taught herself to play the piano when she was over 60 years old, giving at least one house concert at a friend's home where

she played and sang the Gregorian Mass of the Angels.

Perske's piece attempts to tell **Julia's** story from her own perspective and encapsulate the message of her life: "that seemingly simple and everyday acts of love and forgiveness have an impact far beyond what we might imagine. **Julia** Greeley tells us that we can change the world, one heart at a time."

### Colo. Rockies Help Guild, You ►

The Guild has been offering you an opportunity to help it provide funds for the financial needs of the Cause. All you have to do is take your family out to the ball game!

The Guild is offering **discounted** tickets to Rockies evening games at Coors Field on July 8, Aug. 14, and Sept. 30. A portion of the price of the tickets will come to the **Julia Greeley Guild's** fund to support the Cause. If you're planning to go to a baseball game or two this summer, why not help the Cause.

#### *Infield tickets:*

July 8	sect 117	\$40 ticket for \$30
Aug. 14	sect 117	\$32 ticket for \$20
Sept. 30	sect 117	\$40 ticket for \$25

#### *Upper reserve tickets 3<sup>rd</sup> base side:*

July 8	sect 338	\$23 ticket for \$20
Aug. 14	sect 338-340	\$17 ticket for \$14
Sept. 30	sect 340	\$23 ticket for \$16

Payment for July 8 tickets must be received by Mary Leisring at 1300 S. Steele St., Denver CO 80210 by June 28.

Contact Mary Leisring at 303-715-3165 or [mary.leisring@archden.org](mailto:mary.leisring@archden.org) to order tickets.

Earlier games on May 14, June 7 and June 17 have already welcomed a total of 85 Guild-supporting fans.

### Presentation in Lakewood ►

Fr. Blaine has agreed to present a program on the Servant of God to parishioners at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 1985 Miller St., Lakewood CO, at 7 p.m. on Sept. 27.

## Calendar of Julie's Cause ►

These are important landmark events in the Process of the Cause for Canonization:

- Aug. 4, 2016 – The Archbishop hired Dr. Waldery Hilgeman, J.U.D., to be Roman Postulator for the Cause.
- Aug. 6, 2016 – Archbishop Samuel Aquila asked the Congregation for the Causes of Saints (CCS) for the decree *nihil obstat* (nothing stands in the way) for opening **Julia's** Cause. **Julia** is thereby entitled to be called Servant of God.
- Oct. 22, 2016 – The CCS published its decree *nihil obstat*.
- Nov. 14, 2016 – The USCCB endorsed Archbishop Aquila's decision to open the Cause.
- Nov. 30, 2016 – Archbishop Aquila issued an edict asking the faithful for participation in the Cause which he was about to open.
- Dec. 18, 2016 – Archbishop Aquila officially opened the Cause at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception during the 8:30 Mass.
- Feb. 21, 2017 – Second Session of the Tribunal.
- Apr. 11, 2017 – Archbishop requested permission from the CCS to exhume and transfer Julia's mortal remains to the Cathedral Basilica.
- May 26, 2017 – The Exhumation began of Julia's body at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.
- May 28, 2017 – Julia's skull was partially uncovered.
- May 31, 2017 – The last of Julia's bones were collected by Dr. Christine Pink, Metro State University anthropologist.
- June 6, 2017 – The CCS authorized transfer of Julia's remains to the Cathedral.
- June 7, 2017 – Julia's mortal remains were received, blessed, authenticated, and placed in the northwest corner of the transept of the Cathedral Basilica

**Testimonials Needed** ► The Guild is anxious to have on file reports of any favors people feel they have received through **Julia's** intercession! Lest any details be forgotten, please submit them to the Guild in written form.

Having these on file will enable the Cause to show the power of her intercession.

**Coming Meetings** ► All Guild Members and other Friends of **Julia** are invited to our planning meetings at the Curé d'Ars pastoral center, 4701 Martin Luther King Blvd. The Guild meets every third Thursday of the month, at 10:30 a.m. Next meetings: June 15 and July 20. Any last minute changes will be listed on the Guild's web site: [www.juliagreeley.org](http://www.juliagreeley.org).

**Memberships** ► Help us build our Guild **paid** membership by joining the **Julia Greeley Guild** and inviting others to join. A membership application form can be printed at <http://www.juliagreeley.org/guild.html> Dues are \$20 a year or \$50 for three years. Married couples are enrolled for a single fee.

## Friends of Julia

On our mailing lists – 6-13-2017

**538**

which includes

## Guild Members

As of 6-13-2017

**59**

## Remembering Fellow Friends ►

We commend to Julia's intercession the eternal happiness of her deceased Friends.

**Geraldine Magnie**

**Elaine Massie**

**Hanna Nevin**

**Ginger Perkins**

**Wilmetta Ann Roth**

**Put on Your Thinkin' Cap** ► It is now less than a year till the centennial celebration of **Julia's** death on June 7, 1918. Archbishop Aquila has already agreed to celebrate the 5:30 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral Basilica on that date. Put it in your calendar! Suggestions on other ways to celebrate this great event will be welcomed by the Guild officers.

**More Information** ► For more on **Julia** and her fame, visit the Guild's web site at <http://www.juliagreeley.org>. View also the archdiocese's video of "**Julia Greeley: Our Model of Mercy**" at <https://vimeo.com/151101683>

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Linda Chase, Treasurer  
Fr. Faustinus Anyamele, Pastor  
Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., Consultant

**Wagoneers** ► Fr. Blaine Burkey, pro-tem editor; Kate Springs, apprentice editor; Mary Leisring, president & circulation manager.

