



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**

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Julia's Example Being Followed Soon After Her Death ►

Only 11 days after the Servant of God's death in 1918, the *Denver Catholic Register* carried the following story:

PEOPLE DEEM IT HONOR TO DISTRIBUTE LEAFLETS COLORED JULIA HANDED OUT

The Jesuit Fathers at the Sacred Heart church, instead of having any trouble getting promoters of the League of the Sacred Heart to distribute the leaflets at the firehouses of the city and other places that the saintly old colored woman, Julia Greeley, used to care for every month, found that Julia's bands were in high demand. It was deemed an honor to follow the saintly old woman. Mrs. McAneny was given charge of the firehouses, but other

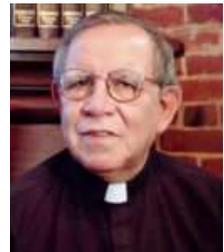
workers would have been delighted to have undertaken the work.

It is no small thing to visit every firehouse in Denver monthly to distribute the Apostleship of Prayer leaflets to the Catholic firemen, but if the aged negress could do it, others figured that they could too.

Julia received more publicity from the Catholic press than anyone else who has died in Denver in recent years. While on earth, she was only a hardworking woman who began life as a slave. But her virtue was so exalted that she was given the distinction of being the only layman in the history of Denver whose body lay in state in a Catholic church. Virtue has a power of appeal that neither political nor any other power can give. And Julia has been heralded from one end of America to another for her virtue. Those who knew her best declare that this widespread praise is more than deserved.

Fr. Merano Tells of Other Early Spread of Julia's Fame ►

When the Guild recently gave Father Marcus Medrano a certificate naming him an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Julia Greeley Guild, he was reminded of some of the things he did to perpetuate Julia's memory and fame—such as sponsoring Sacred Heart Masses near the anniversaries of Julia's death at her grave at Mt. Olivet in the 1990s and commissioning Mary Frances O'Sullivan to obtain from Fr. Pacificus Kennedy OFM previously collected testimonies about Julia Greeley.



In turn Father told the Guild of those who earlier handed Julia's story on to him.

Father was born in Sacred Heart Parish in 1935 and grew up there. Throughout most of



Guild Members and Friends who attended the first day of the exhumation of the Servant of God's mortal remains. Front: Sr. Marion Weinzapfel CSJ, Frankie Rachell-Bruce, Minnie Cassell, Fr. Blaine Burkey OFMCap, Rio DeDios, Luanne Chihoski, Kevin Knight; rear: Dr. Barbara Wilcots, Kate Springs, Deacon Clarence McDavid, Linda Chase, Mary Leisring, Jean Torkelson, Charles Leisring, and Debbie Nowak. Photos by Andrew Wright / Denver Catholic.



Representatives of the three Franciscan Orders were present to see their secular Franciscan Sister exhumed: Sr. Teresa de Jesus Angeles OSCCap, Fr. Blaine Burkey OFMCap, Sr. Clara Sandoval OSCCap, Deacon David Arling OFS, and Br. Augustine Rohde OFMCap. Deacon Arling & his wife are leaders of the local fraternity of the Secular Franciscans to which Julia belonged; and Br. Augustine is regional spiritual assistant to the Seculars.

Right: Quite fittingly, exhumation officials obtained a Lil' Red Wagon to move dirt removed from Julia's grave to a hearse which took it to the scientific lab at the cemetery mortuary. Guild officers Mary Leisring and Fr. Blaine Burkey were given the honor of moving the first wagonload.



the 1940s he attended Sacred Heart School, where the Sisters of Charity from Cincinnati frequently told their students stories about Julia Greeley.

And the Beat Goes On ►

Roxanne King, former editor of the *Denver Catholic* published two sizeable articles on Julia in the *National Catholic*

Register at the time of the opening of the Cause and the Transferal of the Remains.

President Mary Leisring represented the Guild at National Black Catholic Congress 2017 in Orlando FL, July 6-9.

Shannon Levitt-Allen wrote and published “Life of African-American sainthood candidate a gripping tale” at *Crux Catholic Media* on July 14.

Joe and Debbie Nowak will be staffing a Julia Greeley Guild booth at the Rocky Mountain Home Education Conference at Thomas More Church, 8035 S. Quebec St., Centennial CO, July 14 and 15.

Guild Treasurer Linda Chase represented the Guild at the annual convention of the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary of St. Peter Claver in Dallas TX, July 21-26.

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

Centennial Plans Underway ▶

Next June 7 will be the 100th anniversary of the Servant of God Julia Greeley’s birth into eternal life. Save the date on your calendar.

Archbishop Samuel Aquila has already agreed to celebrate a pontifical Mass at 5:30 p.m. that day in the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception .

Many other things being planned, but are still in the planning stage. Stay tuned however.

Suggestions on other ways to celebrate this great event will be welcomed by the Guild officers.

Bishop Rodriguez’s Homily ▶

The very insightful homily Bishop Rodriguez delivered at the Julia Greeley Anniversary Mass at Sacred Heart Church on June 2, as promised, is made available to a much wider audience at the end of this issue.



At the New Tomb ▶

Ambassador Derek Curnow from the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, told the *Wagon* that about three to five people are seen praying each day at Julia new gravesite in the northwest corner of the transept. This might not seem like a very large number, but it is many times more than the number who visited her grave at Mt. Olivet.

Curnow said he thought most people coming to the Cathedral do not know what is in the red box and that the signage presently available is not adequate to properly informing them.

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 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:

Aug. 14 sect 117 \$32 ticket for \$20
Sep. 30 sect 117 \$40 ticket for \$25

Upper reserve tickets 3rd base side:

Aug. 14 sect 338-340 \$17 ticket for \$14
Sep. 30 sect 340 \$23 ticket for \$16

Contact Mary Leisring at 303-715-3165 or mary.leisring@archden.org to order tickets.

Earlier games on May 14, June 7, June 17 and July 8 have already welcomed a total of 88 Guild-supporting fans.

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 20 and Aug. 17. Any last minute changes will be listed on the Guild's web site: 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

552

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

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>

To Contact the Guild ►

Julia Greeley Guild

c/ Curé d' Ars Parish

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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 Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints (CCS) for the decree *nihil obstat* (nothing stands in the way) for opening **Julia's** Cause. **Julia** was thereby entitled to be called Servant of God.
- Oct. 22, 2016 – The CCS published its decree *nihil obstat*.
- Nov. 14, 2016 – The United States bishops (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 6, 2017 – The CCS granted said permission.
- 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

Guild Officers ►

Mary Leisring, President
Kevin Knight, Secretary
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.

Appendix

Bishop Jorge Rodriguez's Homily Julia Greeley Anniversary Mass Sacred Heart Church, Denver June 2, 2017

A hundred and thirty-seven years ago, Julia Greeley became a Catholic precisely in this Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Now we are right in the middle of her path through the canonization process. In some way, the universal and official Church is recognizing her holy life that blossomed in her deep love for Jesus, her charity towards the suffering and the poor, and her desire to lead other people to the love of Jesus.



We are here this evening to honor her, to pray and ask for her intercession, as the saints do for us in Heaven. Yes, the canonization process is still on the way and it may be a long one. But we celebrate is not the official recognition, as important as it is, but her real holy life, that inspires us and invites us to imitate her in her love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

As you know, when we Catholics celebrate a saint or acknowledge his or her holy life, we are doing nothing else than praising God, the author and source of all holiness. As Jesus told us: *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* (Mt 5: 16)

Julia Greeley's holy life is very amazing, because her light shines in the middle of a sad page of human history, especially in our country. A young woman who knew personally the tragedy of slavery, pain and hurt, whose mark she will bear on her own face for the rest of her

life. A woman who in her life knew nothing else than service, poverty and the lack of her own family ... and nevertheless a life filled with love: this is a miracle. Not a miracle that displayed in the cosmological order amazes us, but a miracle that displays in the human order the unbelievable beauty of the light of holiness shining in the darkness. This is the lamp Jesus spoke about destined to illuminate the world.

As we know, miracles are performed by God. Julia Greeley is God's making. She is God's transforming power at work in the soul. She is the accomplishment of grace in a human soul. She is the fruit of God's love for her.



the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name."

But on the other side of the medal, we have Julia Greeley's person and life: she collaborated with grace and embraced with her whole heart the marvelous work the Lord was doing in her. I always admire a human being, who in the midst of injustice, evil, suffering and humiliation, keeps herself unstained from hatred, resentment and keeps the heart full of love and her hands willing to serve.

In Julia we learn that holiness happens in humble souls. That holiness is not necessarily linked to human wisdom, social status, titles or fame. Holiness happens in simple souls living a simple life and doing simple things but with immense love. Helping the poor in silence, distributing little badges of Jesus, sharing from her own poverty in the streets of Denver, smiling

and putting on display a loving heart ... even in a face physically marked by human hatred and humiliation.

We experience all this in our heart. When we enter in contact with the life of Julia Greeley, with her person and her Christian example, we feel in the bottom of our own heart the nostalgia for holiness. In contemplating the lives of the saints, we rediscovered that, honestly, we want to be saints. We long for a holy life out of the world of selfishness, dirt and sin that surrounds us.

Meditating on the live of the saints, we not only discover our very self and vocation, but we feel encouraged to imitate their virtues as a true way to love Jesus. I would love to have the same loving heart for the poor, the same humility and the same love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that Julia always had.

Lastly, the saints, Julia, invites me to look up to Heaven, where they live. Through them I realize that I have been made for Heaven.

As we praise the Lord for the life of Julia Greeley, taken by her hand, let us rediscover today our deep desire of a holy life; let us rediscover Heaven as our own homeland, and let us feel encouraged to continue imitating Julia Greeley with a lifestyle of faith and love, as a true way to Heaven.

Servant of God, Julia Greeley, pray for us.