



Lil' Red Wagon

of the Servant of God Julia Greeley

**official newsletter of
The Julia Greeley Guild
a ministry of
the Cathedral Basilica of the
Immaculate Conception, Denver**

Fifteenth Issue 11-6-2017

Our New Headquarters ►

As of Oct. 1, the Julia Greeley Guild is now a ministry of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at Colfax and Logan Streets in Denver, and for the first time it has its own office, located at 1535 N. Logan St., Denver CO 80203-1913.

Fr. Ron Cattany, rector of the cathedral, and thus guardian of Julia's grave, offered the guild office space and the use of parish meeting rooms, and volunteered to join in the Guild's activities.

The next guild meeting will be held at the cathedral rectory on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 10:30 a.m., and all members and friends of the guild are welcome.

Since the Guild was begun in 2011, it has called two other places home: Sacred Heart Parish on Larimer St., under the aegis of Fr.

Gene Emrisek, O.F.M.Cap., and Fr. Al Panqueva; and Cure d'Ars Church on Martin Luther King Blvd., under the aegis of Fr. Simon Kalonga and Fr. Faustinus Anyamele.

New Pastor's Word of Welcome ►

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"I shall dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life."

We proclaimed this Psalm in Holy Mass only a few weeks ago, and it so aptly fits Julia's presence with us today.

It is with great joy that I welcome the Julia Greeley Guild to the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception!

It truly completes the process that began nearly a year ago with the opening of the cause of Servant of God Julia Greeley, and the placement of her mortal remains in what is now the Julia Greeley Chapel in the West Sanctuary of the Cathedral Basilica in June.

But it is her presence with us, especially in this Season of All Saints, that reminds us of our ability to respond to the call of Vatican II to become holy...to become holy in our times and our culture.

The Poor in Spirit, those especially challenged by the culture of our time, were served by Julia 100 years ago. While the times may change, those in need do not...and the Poor in Spirit in our community today are often drawn to the Cathedral Basilica...but now with a new treasure...a new intercessor for our times...Julia Greeley.

Her life of Service, daily on the streets and



The Guild's new pastor, Fr. Ron Cattany was ordained a priest in 2014. Before that he served four Colorado governors as director of the state's Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety.

alleyways of near Downtown, and monthly at the fire stations, belied an 80-year-old woman, consumed with arthritis, and with only eight teeth.

But she knew one thing, that the source of her strength was in the Sacred Heart of Jesus—the Patron of her home Church—and now her protector in her new home.

As we celebrate her new home and yours, we need to ask ourselves today, “What does Julia Greeley mean to me?” I am sure this humble woman does not want our admiration...but rather to be our inspiration, to do even greater things...just as Jesus promised his Apostles.

May the grace of this union be, for you and me and all the followers of Julia Greeley, the virtues of charity, of fortitude, and of perseverance...reflected in our faith in Jesus, our service to others, and our hope in God’s justice for ourselves and others.

May God Bless You and Keep You,
Very Reverend Ronald W. Cattany
Pastor and Rector
Cathedral Basilica of the
Immaculate Conception

Third Class Relics Available ►

The Capuchin Poor Clare Sisters have finished their task of preparing third-class relics of Julia, 5,000 of them, and the guild has been commissioned to make them available to Julia’s friends.

At the transfer of Julia’s body to the cathedral on June 7, Mother Maria de Cristo Palafox OSCCap, abbess of Our Lady of Light Monastery at 3325 Pecos, and Vice Postulator David Uebbing covered the first-class relics (Julia’s bones) with a brown tunic similar to the secular Franciscan habit in which Julia was buried in 1918.

Later as a community activity the Capuchin nuns formed an assembly circle, excised eighth-inch squares of this cloth which had touched Julia’s bones and attached them to 5,000 copies of Vivian Imbruglia’s icon, which carry a revised

intercessory prayer approved by Archbishop Aquila for private use.

The relics are free, but will not be available in multiple quantities. To obtain one from the Guild, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Julia Greeley Guild, 1535 N. Logan St., Denver CO 80203-1913. The relics can also be obtained at Guild events, but will be distributed only to individuals asking for them.

First- and second-class relics will be available only when Julia is someday beatified.

Grandmother Shares Drawing ►

Mary Assumpta Dietz, parishioner at Nativity Church in Broomfield, and long-time teacher of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd recently shared with the Guild a drawing she made of Julia. Mary majored in art in college and for several years now has had a deep devotion to Julia, to whose care



among other concerns she confides her four African-American grandchildren.

Congress Commissions Painting ►

The 12th National Black Catholic Congress, held in Orlando FL, July 6-9, also added to Julia's growing iconography. All those attending the Congress were given a packet of holy cards of the four black Catholics being considered for sainthood: Ven. Pierre Toussaint, and the Servants of God Mother Mary Lange, Fr. August Tolton, and our own Julia Greeley. Anthony VanArsdale, member of the Catholic Illustrators Guild, was commissioned to paint Julia's image.

Banner Also Honors Julia ►

The National Black Catholic Congress also included Julia in the huge liturgical banner it commissioned for behind the altar platform at its convention in Orlando.

Artist Enzo Selvaggi included Julia among the 21 mostly black saintly figures it honored along with a Black Madonna, a Black Child Jesus and two angels (see above). Julia Greeley is the fourth person from the left in the front row and holds a whip representing her being blinded by a



slave master. A list of the other figures included on the painting can be found at nbccongress/congress-xii.html. The painting is copyrighted by HeritageLiturgica © 2017.



Centennial Plans Underway ►

Archbishop Aquila had agreed to celebrate Mass at the cathedral on June 7, 2018, to mark the centennial of Julia Greeley's death.

The Guild is in the process of planning ways to make the event special and it invites any suggestions that you might have.

Spreading the Word of Julia ►

Guild members Frankie Rachell-Bruce and Sr. Marion Weinzapfel reported a warm reception for their presentation on Julia Greeley at St. Mary of the Crown parish in Carbondale on Colorado's Western Slopes on Sept. 7.

Charlotte McKinney from St. Ignatius of Loyola gave a short presentation on Julia to about 20 of her fellow presidents at the Vincent DePaul Society's Presidents' Meeting at the John Paul II Center in Denver on July 8. Essy Goffinett, another Vincentian president, added to Charlotte's presentation on Julia. As a result, at meetings on July 19 and August 16, the Denver Metro Council board began discussing how it could bring Julia into the Society's activities.

As a result, Ria De Dios and Fr. Blaine staffed a table devoted to Julia at the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Run for the Poor gathering at Bishop Machebeuf High School in Aurora on Sept. 30. A large number of new Friends were added to our lists, and the Vincentians were excited to know that Julia was considered a "one-person St. Vincent de Paul Society." On display at the event, alongside statues of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederick Ozanam, were two precious miniature red wagons, symbolic of Julia Greeley.

Fr. Blaine also made a presentation at Our Lady of Fatima parish in Lakewood on Sept. 27. About 75 enthusiastic parishioners and other friends attended.

Most recently, Nathan Solheim of Metro State University posted his "The case of Denver's angel of charity" on the MSU web site, telling of the role of Associate Professor Dr. Christine Pink in assisting the Cause in the identification, recovery, and study of the remains of the Servant of God. Read the story yourself at the MSU site: <http://insider.msudenver.edu/the-case-of-denvers-angel-of-charity>



Fr. Simon Honored ►

The Archdiocese of Denver honored former Guild board member Fr. Simon Kalonga for his service to the Black Catholic community

during the 2017 Office for Black Catholic Ministry's annual SS. Bakhita & Drexel award dinner held at Bogey's on the Park Golf Course clubhouse Sept. 8. Now pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Ft. Collins, Fr. Simon welcomed and supported the Guild as a parish ministry of Curé d'Ars Church, during his years as pastor there.

Julia of the Child Jesus ►

by Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap.

An extended visit to Julia's tomb recently revealed to me that her remains are surrounded by six images of children, and five of the images are of the Child Jesus.

Julia would have loved that, since there is abundant evidence she loved children, and many of the miracles now being claimed as granted through Julia's intercession involve children.

Above her tomb three stained glass windows record the birth of the Child Jesus, the presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple, and his teaching there as an older child.

On the lower level, just above the tomb four statues surround Julia's remains: one of a guardian angel protecting a child, one of St. Anthony of Padua holding the Child Jesus, one of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, and one of the Infant Jesus of Prague.



I earlier remarked how appropriate it was that Julia is now buried at the foot of a huge marble crucifix, since for years she rented a pew just at the foot of a freestanding, similarly large crucifix on the left side of Sacred Heart Church on Larimer Street.

The crucifix on Larimer St. now hangs on a side wall of the church. Its former position is now filled with a side altar honoring St. Thérèse, who was a contemporary of Julia's. The French saint was born shortly before

Julia came to Denver, died 21 years before Julia, her cause was opened five years before Julia's death, she was canonized seven years after Julia's death, and the altar was probably added soon after that.

The faithful are encouraged to visit, meditate, and pray at Julia's new tomb in the west transept of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception any time the Cathedral is open. Julia is the only person buried in the century-old cathedral.

Julia Back at Mt. Olivet ►

On a walk through Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Wheat Ridge on a dark night in late October, a couple hundred middle and high students from youth ministry programs from all over northern Colorado, in smaller groups of 20 or 30, suddenly ran into Julia Greeley with her red wagon. She introduced herself, shared her life's



photo courtesy of the Denver Catholic

story for five to ten minutes, and encouraged them to follow her practice of volunteering to help other people in need.

Later, on the tour of Mt. Olivet, the young people encountered the souls of the Little Flower of Lisieux (representing the hundreds of Sisters buried in one area), as well as the King and Queen of the Gypsies, a gravedigger, local football standout Freddy Joe Steinmark, and an unnamed baby.

They also participated in a Mass celebrated at the Gallagher Chapel, where Denver's deceased bishops are buried.

Organized by Christi Grebenc from the Mt. Olivet staff mortuary, assisted by over dozen volunteers from Regis University and St. Joan of Arc in Arvada's ministry program, the tour was presented on Oct. 22, 25, and 29 and intended to teach young people the Christian message of the Eve of All Saints Day. The script for Julia was written by Elizabeth Krick, youth coordinator at St. Joan of Arc.

Playing the role of Julia, with great personal enthusiasm, was Robin Welden, a 57-year-old African-American grandmother from Julia Greeley Home, also in Arvada.

Archbishop's Highlights ►

Reflecting in a *Denver Catholic* interview on his first five years as shepherd of northern Colorado, Archbishop Aquila listed as one of the highlights of these years Julia's Cause:

"The opening of the Cause of Julia Greeley is certainly a highlight as well, given the fact that her Cause is the first in the history of our archdiocese and that it has been so enthusiastically welcomed."

Rockies Ticket Sale Aided Cause ►

The discounted tickets which Guild President Mary Leisring made available to interested friends this summer made a significant contribution to the Fund for the Julia's Cause. A total of 191 tickets were sold for the five dates offered and provided \$1,765 profit once the Guild had paid for the tickets.

Leisring said discounted tickets for five more games, one a month from May to September, will be made available for sale sometime next spring.

Coming Meetings ► All Guild Members and other Friends of Julia are invited to our planning meetings at the Cathedral rectory at 1530 N. Logan St., just behind the Cathedral.

The Guild meets every third Thursday of the month, at 10:30 a.m. Next meetings: Nov. 16 and Dec. 21. 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 – 11-6-2017
(was 552 on 6-13-2017)

696

which includes

Guild Members

as of 11-6-2017
(was 59 on 6-13-2017)

89

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/o Immaculate Conception Cathedral
1535 N. Logan St.
Denver CO 80203-1913
(303) 558-6685
juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com

Calendar of Julie's Cause ►

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

- Aug. 4, 2016 – The Archbishop contracted 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 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 transferal 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 Board ►

Mary Leisring, president
Kevin Knight, secretary
Linda Chase, consultant
Fr. Ron Cattany, rector and pastor
Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., consultant

Other Guild Officers ►

Minnie Cassell, associate secretary
Frankie Rachell-Bruce, phone secretary
Josey Hall, membership secretary

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

Appendix

Bishop Jorge Rodriguez's Homily during the Mass Transferring Julia Greeley's Remains to the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, June 7, 2017



We are celebrating today the Ritual for the transfer of the Remains of the Servant of God Julia Greeley to her place of repose at the Cathedral for the private veneration of the faithful. After being declared Servant of God by the Church, Julia Greeley's remains were exhumed, and today they are brought to the cathedral.

As you probably know, connected with beatification and canonization processes for an individual or group of people, the Church has maintained interest in the decedent's remains especially in times of persecution, to save the person's remains from further profanation by enemies of the Church or from simple deterioration over time, and for the purpose of obtaining relics of the holy individual(s) for later veneration. Establishing where the person is buried also give credence to the fact that that person existed and was not a figment of someone or some group's imagination. Lastly, and perhaps more remarkably, the Church is interested in determining whether the deceased is incorrupt as one indication of holiness of life as some saints have been discovered over the stretch of history.

In the reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, we read today; *"Thus says the Lord God: Look! I am going to open your graves; I will make you come up out of your graves, my people, and bring you back to the land of Israel. You shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people! I will put my spirit in you and you may come to life, and I will settle you in your land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord. I have spoken. I will do it."* Our ceremony today is a strong confession of our faith in the resurrection of the body and in the communion of saints.

It is very fitting that we are bringing the mortal remains of Julia Greeley to their final resting place on this particular day. Why? Because 99 years ago on this day, Julia Greeley passed on to eternal life.

Her remains have been brought here to the cathedral as a testament to her lasting reputation of holiness, which has endured among the people all these years.

There are three important and beautiful qualities that Julia showed the people of Denver and which contributed to her being so well known.

- 1. Her humility:** Julia would have been embarrassed by all the ceremonies surrounding the investigation into her life and virtues. But what would have embarrassed and even shocked her was the

fact that she—a former slave and a laywoman—would be the first person buried in Denver's Cathedral, not a bishop or priest. *[At this, a spontaneous applause erupted from the entire congregation.]* With her characteristic humility, she would have preferred to quietly and lovingly take care of others and avoid praise.

- 2. Her perseverance:** We know from the stories passed on to us that Julia was tireless in her charity and in spreading the faith. She walked to all 20 of Denver's fire stations on foot every first Friday to hand out Sacred Heart League pamphlets to every firefighter. What we didn't know until the exhumation is that Julia had arthritis in her hands, feet, back—almost every joint that could have hurt probably did. And yet she did not let that stop her.
- 3. Her faith:** Julia was a convert to the faith and was one of the only black Catholics in Denver at the time, if not the only one. Countless people heard from Julia about the Catholic faith and the great love of Jesus for them through his Sacred Heart. Julia was also a daily communicant who received Christ's love for her and generously brought it to others.

Perhaps it was because of her humility, perseverance, and faith that the Lord decided to call her home on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, allowing her to soak up every last minute of that day, until she died at midnight.

As the Servant of God Julia's mortal remains are placed in their final resting place today, I pray that each of us will strive to imitate her example of humility, perseverance, and faith, and that she will continue to intercede for the materially and spiritually poor around her. And one day, after the example and intercession of our sister Julia Greeley, may we join the saint in Heaven. May Julia Greeley rest in peace here at the Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Denver.

