

Julia's



Lil' Red Wagon

Official newsletter of
the **Julia Greeley Guild**

First issue † 11.17.2014

From *In Secret Service* ... ► “I went to old Sacred Heart School and Church ... and on my way to either place, I would meet **Julia** pulling a little red wagon loaded with clothes that she had collected... She never seemed to use any of the clothes for herself. The old clothes she wore were always the same. God must have loved her greatly, because in her poverty she was always happy, seeking only to help others whom she considered less fortunate than herself.” – Chief Judge Neil Horan, Sept. 15, 1978.

Why the Wagon ► **Julia Greeley (JG)** used her wagon to deliver food, clothing, and fuel to the poor, often secretly. Her Guild's wagon is meant to openly deliver news of the spread of her fame and to encourage her friends to introduce her to new friends. For example, you can help us grow our mailing list by sending us email addresses of friends who would like to receive the *Wagon*.

Talking about JG ► During Black Catholic History Month, at the request of Barbara and Deacon Joe Connor, Fr. Blaine spoke about **JG** to 250 parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church, Seattle WA on Sunday, Nov. 2. He will also address an adult education group at Most Precious Blood Church, Denver, on Jan. 11, 2015.

Catholic Charities Podcast ► As part of Catholic Charities' ongoing formation for its 300 employees, Capuchin Fr. Charles Polifka, chaplain at CC headquarters on Pecos St., recently posted a podcast of his interview of Fr. Blaine concerning **Julia**, “one of the forerunners of Catholic Charities.” Hear same at <http://audioboom.com/boos/2287421-fr-charles-interview-with-fr-blaine-denver-s-angel-of-charity>

2014 Mass ► The second annual **JG** Mass of the Sacred Heart on June 6 drew about 150 friends of **Julia** for a Mass celebrated by Fr. Blaine and concelebrants Frs. Alvaro Pancueva, Christopher Popravak, and Simon Kalonga. Spirited music was provided again by the “Joyful Noise” children's choir from Cure d' Ars parish.



The “Joyful Noise” choir added a profound upbeat to **Julia's** anniversary celebration.

Spiritual Concert ► “Heading Up to Glory” was the name of a musical celebration of the life of **JG** held at the Denver Catholic cathedral on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 28. Featuring soprano Stephanie Ann Ball and pianist Mark L.

Stamper, the concert of Afro-American Spirituals entertained and inspired about 75 very appreciative listeners. Daryl Walker of the Spirituals Project narrated the **JG** tribute.



Mary Leisring (left) thanks Stephanie Ball for celebrating Julia's life at the Denver Catholic cathedral.

Drawings of Julia ► Donna Auguste commissioned artist Jamian Ajamu Jacobs to make eight drawings based on the various episodes involving **JG** as mentioned in *In Secret Service...* With Donna's permission, we present one of them, "Delivering Firewood," in this issue and will present others from time to time. Some of them will also appear in the next printing of *In Secret Service...*



Julia Greeley Home ► The program aimed at taking single homeless women off the street and preparing them to reenter society as productive individuals has continued to move forward despite tremendous obstacles. Fr. Regis Scanlon, who is beginning the program, put it under the patronage of **JG**, because of the countless hours she spent on the street caring for the poor. At least once she slept in a friend's barn. Learn more at <http://www.juliagreeleyhome.org>



The first unit of Julia Greeley Home is already serving homeless single women in Arvada.

Bus Pilgrimage ► The Guild wishes to reprise the **JG** bus pilgrimage that Fr. Blaine led in February 2012, but it first needs to find someone who'll lend us a large bus. Perhaps one of **Julia's** friends can help find one.

Denver History ► Phil Goodstein's latest book, *Curtis Park, Five Points and Beyond*, devoted several paragraphs (pp. 114-116) to **Julia**, and showed that he carefully read *In Secret Service...* Two sentences, however, require correction: "Some argued that the woman was a literal saint, searching for miracles to prove as much. The Catholic hierarchy did not go along with her backer's efforts to have her canonized." Fact is the hierarchy has not yet been formally asked, and those bishops known to have said anything about her have been very positive, including Cardinals Stafford & Arinze, Archbishop Chaput, & Bishop Conley.

Books Sales ► The Josephite Center in Baltimore recently joined the list of vendors who are selling *In Secret Service...* The book is also available at Gerken's and John Erger's religious goods stores, Tattered Covers, the Book Bar on Tennyson, the Capuchin Franciscans' provincial office, and the Archdiocesan Office for Black Catholic Ministry.

A Valiant Effort ► **JG** Academy ended a very successful second year in June, but due to an inextricable financial crunch had to announce that the year would be its last. Congratulations to Richard and Kathy Holmes and their staff who gave the school a valiant effort.

Greeley Award ► Martha Reichert, teacher at Samaritan House on the dignity of women, received Endow's 9th annual **JG** Award named for "an exceptionally holy woman whose virtuous life was a model of love and sacrifice."

Scholarships ► The Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of St. Peter Claver awarded \$1,000 college scholarships this year to six high school graduating young women and men who have embraced the spirit of **JG**.

Save the date ► Fr. Simon Kalonga has agreed to preside at the 3rd annual **JG** celebration at Sacred Heart Church, 2750 Larimer St., Denver, on June 5, 2015. Please put the date on your calendar, and help us grow the event by bringing at least one friend with you.

Membership ► Not all of **JG**'s Friends are paid members of her Guild. Memberships are needed, however, to demonstrate more effectively to the Church how many committed devotees she has. Help us build our membership by first of all joining yourself and secondly by inviting others to join. A membership application form can be printed at <http://www.juliagreeley.org/guild.html>

Testimonials ► For the same reason, the Guild is anxious to have on file reports of any favors you feel you have received through Julia's intercession. Lest any details be forgotten, please submit them in writing to **JG** Guild.

Anniversaries to Remember ►

- Feb. 12: First **JG** Bus Pilgrimage (2012).
- Feb. 24: **JG** joined Secular Franciscans (1901).
- Apr. 5: Seed sown for **JG** Guild (2011).
- Jun. 7: **JG** died (1918).
- Jun. 26: **JG** joined Catholic Church (1880).
- Aug. 1: First meeting of **JG** Guild (2011).

Future Events ►

- Jan. 11, 2015: Presentation, Precious Blood Church.
- Jan. 15, 2015: Planning Meeting.
- Mar. 19, 2015: Planning Meeting.
- May 21, 2015: Planning Meeting.
- Jun. 5, 2015: Third **JG** Mass of Sacred Heart.
- Jul. 16, 2015: Planning Meeting.
- Sep. 17, 2015: Planning Meeting.
- Nov. 19, 2015: Planning Meeting.

Papal Honor ► Sr. Prudence Allen, RSM, who sowed the seed for the **JG** Guild at one of the Archbishop's Lectures, has just been named by Pope Francis to his International Theological Commission.

Meetings ► The Guild has moved its bi-monthly planning meetings from Sacred Heart Church to Cure d' Ars Parish Center, 4701 Martin Luther King Blvd. (just west of the church). The next meeting, open to all **JG**'s friends, will be Jan. 15 at 10:30 a.m. (ring the doorbell).

Internet ► For more information re **JG** and her fame, visit the Guild's web site at <http://www.juliagreeley.org>. Among other things posted there is the short video made by Channel 9 News in February of 2013.

National Attention ► The National Black Catholic Conference has become one of Julia's friends by posting "**Julia Greeley**: Denver Sainly Woman" on its web site at

<http://www.nbccongress.org/Spotlight/Julia-greeley.asp>

The Right Eye ► A half century after her death, witnesses were uncertain as to which of **Julia's** eyes had been destroyed by her slave master. Before making any drawings, Mr. Jacobs had our only photo of **JG** computer enhanced, lightening the area shadowed by the hat, and learned thereby that it was **Julia's** right eye (on the left side of her photo) which was destroyed by her slave master. This judgment has been authenticated by Dr. Gene Wiggs, a retired ophthalmologist.



A computer enhanced version of Julia's only known photograph affords us a little better view¹ of our saintly patron's visage.

Among Sainly Women ► Kathy Coffey, well-known Catholic author, is including a chapter on **Julia Greeley** in a book on saintly North American women which she is writing for the Liturgical Press in Minnesota.

Special Thanks are due ► The charming image of **Julia's Lil' Red Wagon** on our masthead is a gift to the Guild by Artist Tom Sarmo, brother-in-law of the Guild's Book Sales Chair, Sue Roth-Allen, and son-in-law of Ann Roth, who has generously stored in her home the Guild's inventory of *In Secret Service...*

Corporation Officers ►

Mary Leisring, president
Linda Chase, treasurer
Kevin Knight, secretary
Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., board member
Fr. Alvaro Pancueva, board member

Contacting Us ►

Julia Greeley Guild
1663 Steele St., Apt. 707
Denver CO 80206
(303) 558-6685
juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com

Wagoners ► Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., *ad hoc editor*; Mary Leisring, *circulation manager*