



## Lil' Red Wagon

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

**Sixth Issue 3.7.16**

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**Walking in Her Steps** ► This year's **Julia Greeley** bus pilgrimage gathered 35 of her Friends Feb. 21 for a nearly four hours long afternoon visit in several areas which she frequented in her ministry of mercy to the poor and her Sacred Heart ministry of evangelizing

Denver firemen.

On a 40-passenger bus chartered from Arrow Stage Lines, the group followed a 26-mile loop in Denver and Wheat Ridge, starting from Capuchin provincial offices to St. Elizabeth Church to Sacred Heart Church to Annunciation Church to Regis University to **Julia**'s grave in Mt. Olivet Cemetery and back to the Capuchin offices.

At about 20 different locations, either on the bus or on foot, Fr. Blaine Burkey provided the pilgrims a rich mixture of short stories of **Julia**'s activities connected with the sites, interspersed occasionally with prayers for spiritual guidance and **Julia**'s intercession.

With permission of Michael Gellman, CEO of Spire Digital, and the assistance of his office manager Jerika Jones, the pilgrims spent some time in their office building on Walnut St. which was once the boarding house where **Julia** lived from 1903 till 1916.

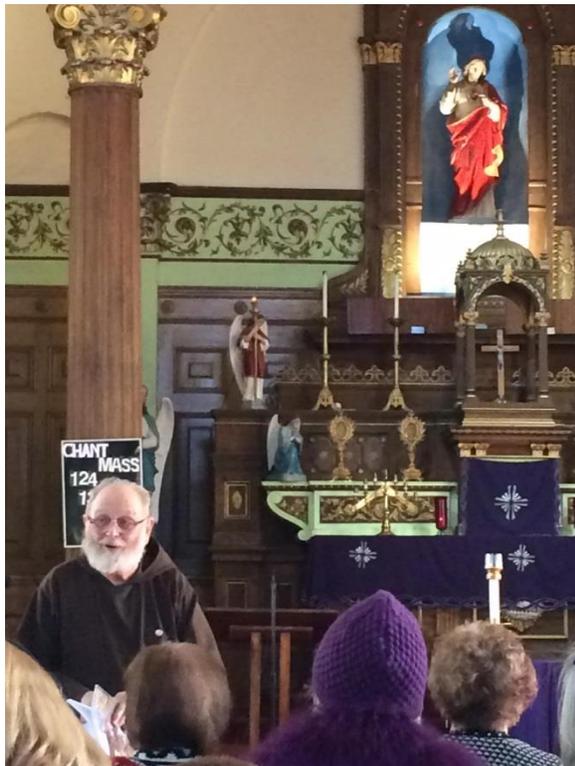
Another special feature of the event was the participation of Ms. Virginia Haddad who came all the way from Southern California specifically for the pilgrimage. Virginia's aunt Margo Simpson was the little girl on **Julia**'s lap on the only photo extant of our patron.

Driver Michael Lovett very professionally helped make the trip a very pleasant one, and it was discovered that he had driven the lead bus in the Broncos Victory parade 12 days earlier.

Special thanks are due to Gina Francis, Mary



Leisring, Penny Bishop, and Brothers Anthony Monahan and Montie Chavez for making the pilgrimage possible.



**A Family Friend** ► The day after the pilgrimage. Karna Swanson posted a piece on the on-line *Denver Catholic* on Virginia Haddad's presence on the **Julie Greeley** Pilgrimage.

Virginia told the *Catholic*, she first heard of **Julia** when she was six or seven. Her mother showed her an old newspaper clipping containing a copy of the only known photo of her, which also showed her aunt Margo Simpson on her lap. Her mother told her **Julia** used to be a slave and had lost an eye by being hit by a slave master's whip.

Years later Virginia sought more information about the saintly woman who had "such a powerful influence on her grandparents' life" and connected with the Guild and *In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart*. She thus learned the former slave belonged to the Secular Franciscans, a group Virginia herself had just joined. She began spreading the word to many people in her own life, particularly other Secular

Franciscans. She even sent a book to Martin Sheen, hoping he would consider doing a movie on **Julia**.

Learning of the recent pilgrimage through the Jan. 25 Wagon, she quickly arranged to be here, feeling "there should be someone from the family here."

After making the pilgrimage, Virginia told the *Catholic*, "Some of us in the group were talking today and asked, when did this woman sleep? During the day she was doing physical work, and then in the evenings she was out and about walking, delivering things, carrying a mattress



on her back, carrying sacks of potatoes, actually dragging them in a little red wagon. She was an amazing person."

Entitled "**Julia Greeley** tour reconnects old family friend," the article can be viewed at <http://denvercatholic.org/?s=haddad>.

**"Angel of Charity," the Image** ► A special front-page article in the *Denver Catholic* for Feb. 13-26, 2016, addressed various stories coded in the archdiocese's new iconic image of **Julia** by Vivian Imbruglia.

Written by Melissa Keating, the article recorded various symbolisms observed in the icon by Chancellor David Uebbing. For example the presence of the child stands for not just



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**Julia's** "little white angel" but for all the children the Model of Mercy knew: "Many of the stories surrounding **Julia** include children. She would take them for rides on the trolley, dance with them in the streets and even laugh with them when they pointed out she accidentally put her skirt on inside out. Uebbing said these stories are part of what makes **Julia** so saint-like. 'If you look at the lives of the saints, and even **Julia** herself, loving children is a common trait,' Uebbing said. Imbruglia painted the child pulling one of **Julia's** fingers backward, as children will do. She said she imagined **Julia** allowing the discomfort." See the whole article at

<http://denvercatholic.org/decoding-julia-greeley/#.VtSPmI32aM9>.

**Little c and Big C** ► Every time we have wanted to speak of our dream of having **Julia** declared a saint, we have hesitated to use the word cause because her **official** cause for canonization must first be opened by the archbishop, and this has not yet happened. But

what can we call our present dream other than a cause, meaning that which gives rise to an effect. From now on, to deal with this important distinction, *Wagon* will use the lower case cause to refer to the unopened, unofficial stage and the upper case Cause to refer to the official stage. We look forward to the day when this distinction will be of no further interest.

**Looking Ahead** ► Chancellor David Uebbing, tribunal officials Fr. Giovanni Capucci and Stephen Garbitelli, and Fr. Blaine from the Guild met Feb. 16 to discuss what might be involved in someday opening **Julia's Cause**.

## Still To Come

**Today** ► Please remember in prayer one of the Guild's founding Friends, Sr. Mary Prudence Allen RSM, who is at Alma MI recovering from brain surgery and hoping to return to her university chaplaincy at Manchester in England's Lake District.

**Mar. 17: Guild Meeting** ► The Guild meets at Cure d' Ars Parish Center, 4701 Martin Luther King Blvd. (just west of the church). All of **Julia's** friends are welcome, and encouraged, to attend. Our next planning meetings will be on - Mar. 17 and May 19 at 10:30 a.m. (ring the doorbell).

**Mar. 23: Interview by Kathleen McCarthy** ► Fr. Blaine will discuss **Julia Greeley** and her cause with Kathleen McCarthy's "What the World Needs Now" on WTMR 800 AM, a Catholic radio ministry in the Philadelphia-New Jersey-Delaware area. It will air there at 5 p.m. EST and can then be accessed on-line at <http://www.inhissign.com/listenIHS.html>.

**Jun. 10: New Date for Annual Mass** ► The fourth annual **Julia Greeley** Mass of the Sacred Heart is scheduled now for June 10, 2016 (the Friday nearest her June 7 anniversary of death). **Please note that this is not the date mentioned in an earlier *Wagon*.** Fr. Scott Bailey, secretary to the archbishop, will be main celebrant and homilist; and The Joyful Noise from Curé d' Ars parish will once again provide musical



accompaniment. The Mass will be at Sacred Heart Church, 2760 Larimer Street, Denver, CO at 7:00 p.m. with a reception following.

A video of last year's Mass can be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KG4t\\_X4EYII](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KG4t_X4EYII).

**Sep. 24: Julia in Rome?** ► Details are still scarce, but an archdiocesan pilgrimage to Italy being planned for September early on spoke of “concluding with the Witnesses to the Power of Mercy conference on Sept. 24 in Rome, featuring **Julia Greeley** and others.”

**2018: Put on Your Thinkin' Cap** ► It is now only 27 months till the centennial celebration of **Julia's** death on June 7, 1918. Suggestions on how to celebrate this great event will be welcomed by the Guild officers.

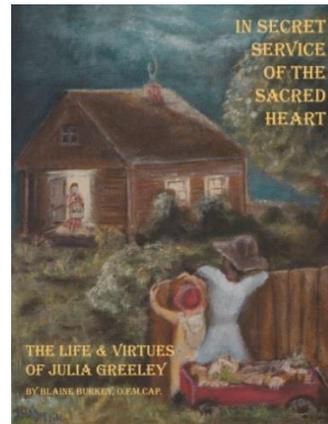
**Add to Your Anniversaries Calendar** ►

- Feb. 24: **Julia** received into the Secular Franciscans as Sr. Elizabeth (1901).
- Mar. 28: “In Secret Service...” published (2012).
- Apr. 5: Sr. Prudence Allen told an Archbishop's lecture audience **Julia Greeley** should be canonized (2011).
- Jun. 7: **Julia** died (1918).
- Jun. 26: **Julia** joined Catholic Church (1880).
- Aug. 1: First meeting of **JG** Guild (2011).
- Aug. 2: **Julia** gained Portiuncula indulgences at St. Elizabeth Church (annually)
- Nov. 17: **Julia's** nameday as Secular Franciscan (Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary)
- Nov. 17: First issue of the Lil' Red Wagon (2014)

**Volunteer Possibilities** ► Here are some things volunteers could do to help Julia's cause – edit and publish the *Wagon* – work at increasing membership – build up our mailing list – where possible, replace postal addresses with email addresses – design and print cards, fliers, leaflets – greet people at Guild events – recruit vendors for the book – help keep vendors supplied – share your own imaginations

**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 in writing to the Guild. Having these on file will one day enable archdiocesan authorities to know there is a real interest in her cause.

**In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart** ► A slightly-revised second printing of the Guild's study of **Julia** came off the press just before Christmas. It contains an update on precisely which of Julia's eyes was destroyed by the slave master and introduces several of Jamian Ajamu Jacobs' drawing of various episodes of Julia's life. Each printing has been for 1,000 books.



**Book Vendors** ► Besides the Guild's own web site at [www.juliagreeley.org](http://www.juliagreeley.org) and the Capuchins' site at [www.capuchis.org](http://www.capuchis.org), one can also find the book on sale at the following locations:

- Archdiocesan Black Catholic Ministry Office
- The Book Bar, Tennyson St., Denver
- Cabrini Shrine, Golden

- Capuchin Provincial Offices, Denver
- Gerken's Religious Goods, Denver
- John Ergers Religious Goods, Denver
- Josephite Center, Baltimore
- Thomas More Parish Gift Shop, Centennial

**Excerpted from "In Secret Service..." ►**

"I was coming from old church and I can remember exact spot – between Lawrence and Larimer – on 28<sup>th</sup> St. – where we met and talked. She was so cheerful – She had time to talk to kids – If there's ever a saint in heaven, she was out of this world .... She made an impression on me – spent her money on somebody who had more than she did. – I pray to that woman every night to intercede with Sacred Heart for me. I know she not at that stage, but to me she is .... Large hat that covered her face – long dress – decided limp – see a block away."

– John McNulty (b. ca 1907)

**Keep the Wagon Rolling ► Julia Greeley**

Guild's newsletter is meant to tell of the spread of her fame and to encourage her friends to introduce her to new friends. Help us grow our mailing list by sending us email addresses of friends who would like to receive the *Wagon*. Set yourself a goal of introducing two new people a week to **Julia Greeley**. Suggested conversation starter: "Have you ever heard of **Julia Greeley**?"

This issue of the *Wagon* is being sent to 353 Friends of **Julia** on the Guild list (an increase of 48% since Issue 3 in July of 2015). Feel free to forward the Issue to your own friends, and invite them to send the Guild their addresses to assure reception of future issues.

All previous issues of the *Wagon* are archived on the Guild web site at [www.juliagreeley.org](http://www.juliagreeley.org).

**Help Us Save Postage ►** If you received this newsletter by postal service, you could help us save money by sending the Guild your name and email address.

**Memberships ►** Also 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>

**Information ►** For more on **Julia** and her fame, visit the Guild's web site at <http://www.juliagreeley.org>. Enjoy there a short video about **Julia** made by Channel 9 News in February of 2013. To view the archdiocese's video of "Julia Greeley: Our Model of Mercy" see <https://vimeo.com/151101683>.

**Guild Officers ►**

Mary Leisring, President  
 Kevin Knight, Secretary  
 Linda Chase, Treasurer  
 Fr. Simon Kalonga, Pastor  
 Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., Consultant

**Send All Correspondence to ►**

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

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

►►► Appendix A ◀◀◀

**'Old Julia:' Celebrating a Heroic Life**

by Fr. Regis Scanlon, O.F.M.Cap., Mar. 1, 2016

Imagine a young woman born into slavery 150 years ago. She's abused so much that she loses her eye and full use of one leg. When our country comes to its senses after the Civil War and recognizes her innate freedom and dignity as a human being, this young woman thinks to herself, "I hurt, and I can't see well, and I know many people won't accept me because I am black, but I'm going to take this chance and make something of myself."

We know Julia Greeley must have thought something like this, because of what she did: She left Missouri and came to Denver to conquer life in spite of the huge obstacles she still faced -- including the obstacle of forgiving her enemies. (We know she must have forgiven her enemies because the way she conducted her

life showed that there wasn't a bitter bone in her body.)

I'm marveling a lot over Julia Greeley right now because -- well, what a 2016 she's had so far!

In January this poor housekeeper from Denver known in her day as "Old Julia" was named Denver's Model of Mercy, as part of Pope Francis's Year of Mercy. In February, a packed bus tour followed the historic paths she trudged every day bringing food, clothes and encouragement to other poor people. The tour was sponsored by the Julia Greeley Guild (yes, "Old Julia" even has her own guild today) and she is the subject of a fascinating biography written by my Capuchin brother, Father Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap.

Now it's March, and of course, Julia Greeley continues to inspire the Julia Greeley Home, which has been on my heart for many years, and which finally opened in 2013 for today's women who, like Julia, are poor, and have been traumatized and abused by life.

The mysterious thing about Julia Greeley is, unlike most famous people, her fame doesn't fade with time, it continues to grow. We can only wonder what it means. We know that more

and more people are asking today whether the woman known as "Old Julia" will someday also be known as "Saint Julia." We don't know. Whether or not that happens, she has already done something that she never could have guessed -- she's inspiring people a century after her death. It's said Julia loved to laugh, and we can only think she would have laughed to think that, someday, she would be "famous" just because she got up every day, determined to do what she could to love others.

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