



Lil' Red Wagon

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

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Save the Date ►

Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016

Put that date on your calendar right now, and consider yourself invited to the event that the Julia Greeley Guild has worked toward for over five years. On Dec. 18, Archbishop Aquila will open Julia Greeley's Cause for Canonization. The event will be at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at Colfax and Logan Streets, at 8:30 a.m.

Please make every effort to be there for this historic event and show the Archbishop and visitors from Rome and one another how much Julia's

Cause means to you. Work to bring your friends also.

Calendar of Julie's Cause ►

These are the important recent events leading up to the Official Opening:

- 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 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 Congregation of Causes of Saints published its decree *nihil obstat*.
- Nov. 14, 2016 – The U.S. hierarchy endorsed Archbishop Aquila's decision to open the Cause.
- Dec. 18, 2016 – Archbishop Aquila will officially open the Cause at Immaculate Conception Cathedral Basilica during the 8:30 Mass. Archdiocesan Chancellor David Uebbing will serve as the local Vice Postulator of the Cause; Fr. Giovanni Capucci, as the Archbishop's Delegate; and Fr. Vincent Phung, as the Promoter of Justice.

The Vice-Postulator's Vision ►

The announcement that the Servant of God Julia Greeley will have her Cause for canonization officially opened is a blessing for the people of northern Colorado and the entire Church because it will spread awareness of Julia's example of charity for those who were in need, despite being mistreated herself.

I also believe it is providential that Julia's Cause is being introduced at a time when so many people feel unsettled by the latest cultural and political developments, since her devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus points

the way forward. Through his sacrificial love for humanity found in his Sacred Heart, Jesus gave us the only real cure for what ails us and showed us the path for lasting peace.

For these reasons, I hope and pray that through the opening of her cause, Julia Greeley will become better known throughout the Church as an example of holiness and draw many people to imitate her virtues.

David Uebbing
Vice-Postulator

Bishops Unanimously Agree ►

*As part of the Vatican's requirements for the opening of a cause for canonization, Archbishop Samuel Aquila asked the Fall Assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore, Nov. 14, for its observations on his decision to open **Julia's** Cause. His talk to the bishops follows:*

"**Julia Greeley** was born into slavery in Hannibal, Missouri, sometime between 1833 and 1848. As is the case with most people who were enslaved, very little is known about her origin. For instance, we know that the names of her parents were George and Cerilda, but their family names are unknown; and yet we know that God chooses the simple and humble to do great things. **Julia's** life is a testimony to that truth.

"After being freed from slavery, **Julia** made her living as a servant and cook, eventually coming to Denver between 1878 and 1880 to work for Colorado's first territorial governor, Col. William Gilpin. Through the influence of the governor's wife, Julia Pratt Gilpin, **Julia** was baptized on June 26, 1880, in Denver's Sacred Heart parish.

"From then on, **Julia** was a daily communicant and maintained strong devotion to the Blessed

Sacrament, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In fact the Jesuits who ran Sacred Heart parish considered her the most enthusiastic promoter of devotion to the Sacred Heart. This is backed up by the testimony of prisoners, policemen, firefighters and lay people to whom **Julia** handed out the Sacred Heart League and Apostleship of Prayer pamphlets every month.

"Her desire to help people reach heaven and her trust in the Sacred Heart were so great that even though she did not read, she travelled to all 20 of Denver's fire stations on foot each month to hand out what she called "tickets to heaven."

"**Julia's** faith was not limited to merely promoting belief and devotion. In fact she was better known among the people of Denver as a one-woman St. Vincent de Paul [Society].

"In spite of the hard treatment she received as a slave, including the loss of her right eye to a master's whip, **Julia** was kind to those in need, especially to the poorest of the poor.

"Sr. Irene Lally recalled [how] **Julia** carried out her acts of charity. To avoid embarrassing the people she helped, **Julia** did most of her charitable work of under cover of night through dark alleys.

"Her acts of charity, despite her marginalized and poor state, have remained strongly in the memory of those who had witnessed her selfless acts. She went out in the streets with gunny sacks filled with wood, coal, clothes, food



Archbishop Aquila presents his request for the American bishops' support

and medicine and would make her rounds to the desperately poor for whom no one else provided. She took care of and administered what supplies she could beg for them. Policemen and firemen gave donations to her and recommended her whenever she went because she was taking care of the forgotten poor.

“She died in 1918 and was known as Denver’s Angel of Charity. For over five hours, both the rich and the poor viewed her body and paid their respects to her.

“In this Year of Mercy, as we come to its conclusion, she was truly a witness of mercy in her own time. She met people on the periphery, and devotion to her and recognition of her still continues in Denver and well beyond today.

“And so we are submitting her Cause for Canonization to the Holy See and look forward to your fraternal support for this great missionary of mercy.”

Afterwards, Archbishop John Kurtz of Louisville, president of the Conference, thanked the Archbishop for his “eloquent presentation of her life” and asked if anybody wished to comment. Bishop Joseph Gaydos of Jefferson City said: “Archbishop Aquila, thank you very much for your wonderful testimony. As the bishop of the diocese where she was born, I am very grateful for this opportunity to lift up sanctity and the power of God to transform everybody’s life. We also are supporting the Cause of the Servant of God Father Augustus Tolton, which Chicago is promoting now. I think that both of these are great, great saints.”

Archbishop Kurtz then put the forwarding of her Cause before the bishops for a voice vote, by which they unanimously agreed to Archbishop’s Aquila’s opening Julia’s Cause.

Excerpt from *In Secret Service* ►

After enrolling many firemen in the League of the Sacred Heart, she went downtown to see Chief Terry Owens. “What you selling now, **Julie?**” he asked. “Tickets for the Orphans Ball

or the Orphans’ Picnic?” She sold more tickets for church affairs than anyone else in Denver. — “Dese tickets are for Heb’n, Chief, and I wanna give ‘em to all your men.” — Terry looked over a leaflet and said “That’s fine, **Julie**, but don’t forget me.” — “No, suh! You not the foist memba, but you the chiefest.”

**Terrance F. Owens (b. ca 1856/57),
Denver’s fifth fire chief (1903-1912)**



Fire Chief Terry Owens



Firefighters Museum ►

The previously mentioned display on **Julia** at the Denver Firefighter Museum is now in place and is shown in the accompanying photos. The museum at 1320 Tremont Pl. is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: adults \$7, children and seniors \$5





**“A
Gift
Off
Her
Back”**

The 12x16” acrylic scene painted by Guild Member Fr. Blaine Burkey as his “friar project” for the Capuchins’ Brown Robe Benefit gala on Oct. 29 brought the Capuchin \$2,500 and the **Julia Greeley** Guild another \$2,500. The Guild will be using its part of the income to support **Julia**’s cause as it goes forward. The painting catches **Julia** on one of her nighttime missions of mercy, delivering a mattress to needy neighbors.

Denver Communion of Saints ►

At least seven Servants of God are known to have spent time in Denver.

Most recently **St. Pope John Paul II** visited here during World Youth Day Aug. 12-15 of 1993.

St. Teresa of Calcutta was here twice in the 1980s. The first time in mid-June of 1986. After addressing 600 teenagers at the second annual Awakening Conference at the YMCA in Estes Park, she attended the National Right to Life Committee’s annual conference in Denver. She was later at McNichols Arena in 1989, at which time she revealed that she would be sending her first Sisters here in 1990.

The Servant of God **Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen** spoke at the Denver City Auditorium on June 19, 1953.

St. Katharine Drexel visited Denver in 1911 and was on the campus of Sacred Heart College, now Regis University, on Oct. 18. Just across Lowell Blvd., the Servant of God Julia Greeley was keeping house and cooking for the Ryan Sisters.

The Servant of God **Father Leo Heinrich** came to Denver in 1907 and was martyred here on Feb. 21, 1908, while distributing Communion at St. Elizabeth’s Church.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini spent some long periods of time here in 1902 and 1905 in conjunction with the beginning of her convents, school, and orphanage and is presently more remembered for her involvement in the beginnings of the Cabrini Shrine in Golden.

The Servant of God **Julia Greeley**’s time in Denver differed from all the above in that the others were here cumulatively not much over a year, while Julia spent most of the last 38-40 years of her life in our midst.

There is no evidence that **Julia** and Mother Cabrini and Mother Drexel ever met. However, among her personal papers St. Katharine did have a typed copy of **Julia**’s obituary from the *Register*, so she at least was aware of **Julia**’s existence. Fr. Leo, however, was the pastor of St. Elizabeth’s Church, where **Julia** regularly attended meetings of the Franciscan Third Order (now known as the Secular Franciscan Order), and in all likelihood Fr. Leo led those meetings.

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. Next meetings: Dec. 1, 2016, and Jan. 19, 2017, at 10:30..

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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