



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

Greeley Centennial Edition
Nineteenth Issue 6-25-2018

Julia's Sarcophagus Arrives from Carrara, Italy, Now in Place ►

Seven masonry workers from Landmark Stone International LLC of Denver spent six intense hours on May 30, bringing Julia's sarcophagus into its position in the cathedral and placing therein the funerary box containing the Servant of God's precious bones.

Eric Marshall, Landmark's owner, said the ton and a half of *bianco statuario* marble is the same type of stone used by Michelangelo for his *Pieta* and *David* sculptures. It is also used in various altars and other appointments in Denver's century-

old Basilica Cathedral. The stone comes from the city of Carrara in northern Lombardy.

The base of tomb will be covered by strips of Colorado Lincoln marble from the town of Marble in Gunnison County, stone similarly used elsewhere in the Cathedral.



The only ornamentation on the sarcophagus are bas relief crosses on the end panels matching a cross on Julia's original tombstone, the shield of Archbishop Aquila is on the top panel, and a medallion of the Sacred Heart designed by Marshall himself on the front panel. The design of the original grave stone identifying "Beloved Julia Greeley" is reproduced on the front base cover.

Denver Channel 4's coverage of the event can be viewed at

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/video/3873513-effort-to-declare-julia-greeley-a-saint-moves-forward/> and a multimedia coverage of the making of the tomb can be viewed at <http://denvercatholic.org/from-slavery-to-a-tomb-fit-for-a-dignitary/>

Centennial of Servant of God's Death Nearly Fills Cathedral Basilica ►

On the evening of June 7, exactly one year from the day when remains of the Servant of God Julia Greeley were first moved into the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on Denver's Colfax St., over 500 of her friends attended a pontifical Mass marking the 100th anniversary of her death.



By a happy coincidence it was the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, the same movable feast on which Julia had died a century earlier, a feast especially dear to her heart.

The centennial ceremony was preceded by a bagpipe rendition of "Faith of Our Fathers" and other songs performed by Engineer Burke Benton of the Denver Fire Department.

The festive entrance procession then began with "When I Think of His Goodness," sung by the Joyful Noise youth choir from Curé d'Ars Church.

Leading the entrance procession were honor guards from the Knights of Columbus, the Knights and Ladies of the St. Peter Claver, and the Denver Fire Department



Bishop Joseph N. Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago and Postulator for the cause of the Servant of God Father Augustus Tolton, Fr. David Cockson from Louisville KY, and about a dozen other priests from the Denver archdiocese concelebrated the Mass with Archbishop Samuel Aquila.

Fr. Ron Cattany, rector of the cathedral served as chaplain to Bishop Perry; and the archbishop was assisted by Deacons Witold



Kaczmarzyk and David Arling. Deacon Arling serves as local minister of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, of which Julia was a member from 1901 till her death.

Archbishop Aquila's homily for the festive occasion is carried in its entirety in an Appendix on pp. 7-10.



At the offertory procession, two members of the firefighters honor guard accompanied James Harvey and Bréa Pierre-Louis from the Joyful Noise choir in bringing bread and wine to the altar in two red wagons, symbolic of the wagon with which

Julia carried gifts to Jesus in the poor. Prior to Mass, members of the Julia Greeley Guild pulled four identical wagons around the cathedral grounds distributing food and snacks to the poor and homeless of the area.



Guild Members Charlotte McKinney, Penny Bishop, and Essy Goffinett were among those distributing gifts to the poor around the Cathedral Basilica grounds.

At the end of the Mass, David Uebbing, archdiocesan chancellor and vice-postulator of Julia's cause, read the proclamation by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper declaring June 2-9, 2018, to be Servant of God Julia Greeley Week.

Following the Mass the Julia Greeley Guild sponsored a reception in the K. of C. Hall on Grant St. Mike & Suzie Woolridge, Stacy Esnault-Lindsay and Chuck Abernethy provided entertainment. Door



WHEREAS, Julia Greeley, a former slave from Missouri, who died in Denver on June 7, 1918, chose to spend most of the last four decades of her life in Colorado serving the needs of hundreds of people less fortunate than herself; and

WHEREAS, Julia elected to rise above the numerous racial assaults and indignities she suffered, choosing to live in joyful community with, and in service to the people of Denver; and

WHEREAS, Julia worked hard for a meager livelihood, yet shared what little she had with the needy of Denver; and

WHEREAS, Julia spent countless hours each year sharing her love and concern for the spiritual wellbeing of the firefighters of Denver; and

WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Denver has chosen to present the Servant of God Julia Greeley as a candidate for the highest honor of sainthood in the Roman Catholic worldwide community; and

WHEREAS, Julia is being honored on the centennial of her death, June 7, 1918, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception by the local Catholic community and by numerous dignitaries from throughout the country;

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim, the period between June 3, 2018 and June 9, 2018, as

SERVANT OF GOD JULIA GREELEY WEEK

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this third day of June, 2018



John W. Hickenlooper
John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

prizes were two red crystal Julia Greeley rosaries made and donated by Penny Bishop.

Firefighter Shares Thoughts On Greeley Centennial Mass ►

As firefighters we try to be prepared, pre-plan, and anticipate most every situation we find ourselves in. When preparing for this Mass, getting the Honor Guard together, and

trying to wrap myself around this historic event; I found my ability to grasp it all to be inadequate.

This beautiful night was one of grace, and one that will be remembered for the rest of my life. Seeing the impact of this holy woman in all different cross sections of society was evident from the different walks of life present that night to honor God through honoring Julia.

When the bagpipes filled the air in the Cathedral, there was a profound feeling that filled the air, one of gravity and thanksgiving. Hearing “Faith of Our Fathers” played, tears filled my eyes. Julia loved Denver Firefighters as Christ, and saw Christ reflected in each of us that she ministered to. That legacy was but one piece of the celebration, but it was typical of the heart of the servant that Servant of God Julia Greeley possessed.

I pray that I too may be able to model my service and ministry after this heroic woman, and may God grant me the grace to configure my heart to see Christ in all.

**Lt. Derrick Johnson
Fire Prevention Division
Denver Fire Department**



Attending the ceremony from the Denver Fire Department were Capt. James Culp, Lt. Derrick Johnson, Tech. Charles Vigil, Capt. Greg. Pixley, Chap. (Fr.) Brad Noonan, FF. Michael Vazquez, and FF. Glenn Stoakes. Missing from photo: Eng. Burke Benton.



Other guests attending the ceremony included Bridgett and Greg Agwu from the Ladies and Knights of St. Peter Claver, and in matching red robes Bridgett's sister and brother-in-law Chastity and Christopher Mbagwuh, who were visiting from Nigeria.



Marking First Grave

The Julia Greeley Guild and Mt. Olivet Cemetery invite all the members of the guild to a blessing ceremony for the memorial stone we have prepared to mark the site of Julia's first grave, where her body rested from 1918 till 2017. The ceremony will be in early July, at a time yet to be announced.

Image of the Imager ►



Among out-of-town visitors for the Greeley Centennial were Vivian Imbroglio and her husband Tom, who travelled to Denver from Rancho Cucamongo CA. Vivian is the

iconographer of Julia's Cause's official image, and is well known far beyond the Greeley circle.

Blessed with the gift of artistry at an early age, Vivian tried her hand at numerous art forms prior to being introduced in 2005 to iconography, an art form involving written prayers, rather than painted pictures.

0 The new form quickly and profoundly influenced Vivian's faith journey. With each stroke of her brush, Vivian now implores the Holy Spirit to use her as an instrument to



convey the word of God. Each image is framed to encompass the teaching that all icons are windows into heaven and in venerating each image, we are truly witnessing paradise itself.

Vivian begins each image with prayer, research, reading biographies, and studying devotions so the subject's life can be fully and honorably represented. Vivian's spirituality and devoutness is poured into her work and therefore supports her ministry to help others on their own personal faith journeys. She hopes to encourage families to use icons and other forms of sacred art to make their homes domestic churches and spread the love of God through His word.

Vivian's icons have been widely used as Catholic book covers, in magazines and textbooks, and she has been featured in the National Catholic Register and on EWTN.

She has spoken at many conventions and retreats and is currently partnered with a Catholic jewelry company, My Saint My Hero, which features her work. Her original icons can be found in private homes, churches, convents, monasteries, and even the Vatican. She signs each with the

acronym AMDG, which stands for *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam* (For the Greater Glory of God). It is not by her hand alone that these holy images are created.

Still Time To Inform Archdiocese of Long- Standing Devotion to Servant of God ►

If you are one of those who have had long-standing devotion to Julia Greeley prior to the founding of the Julia Greeley Guild in 2011, the Vice-Postulator of Julia's Cause wants to—needs to—hear from you.

This is necessary in order to assure Rome that Julia has enjoyed a long, authentic, and widespread reputation for holiness and intercessory power.

But this needs to be done quickly, as the local phase of the investigation of Julia's Cause will be ended in the first half of August, and the findings sealed and sent to the Vatican's Congregation for the Cause of Saints

To answer this request, it is not necessary that one has received a spectacular favor which can be proven beyond a doubt to have been miraculous. It is sufficient to have had a habit of praying to Julia and believing that favors were being obtained through her intercession.

Your testimonial describing your long-standing devotion to Julia should be sent to David Uebbing, vice-postulator of Julia's Cause. He can be accessed by email at vicepostulator@archden.org or by postal service at Archdiocese of Denver, 1300 S. Steele St., Denver CO 80210-2599. If necessary, ask someone to help you write and file your testimony. Guild members would be willing to help you. Contact us at juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com or (303) 558-6685.

Julia's Friend Helps Rid City of Public Porn ►

It was especially gratifying to see one of Julia Greeley's Friends—one of our Wagon readers—being celebrated by the Catholic News Agency for her Catholic Action, in successfully campaigning to have a porn billboard removed from public view.

Abriana Chilelli, mother of four, did just that by successfully calling civil authorities' attention to existing city zoning codes.

Discounted Ball Tickets ►

In support of Julia's Cause, The Archdiocesan Office of Black Catholic Ministry is still offering discounted tickets for three 2018 Rockies games. The tickets are for seats located in section 117 under the overhang.

Orders for the tickets need to be sent to Mary L. Leisring, Archdiocese of Denver Office of Black Catholic Ministry, 1300 S. Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210-2599, with a check payable to "Julia Greeley Fund."

The Fund has been established by the Archdiocese to cover various expenses entailed in Julia's Cause for Canonization.

Game 1 – Tues., July 24 vs. Astros @ 6:40pm

- Price: \$30 per ticket
- Face Value: \$34
- Payment deadline: Tues, July 3, 2018

Game 2 – Friday, Aug. 24 vs. Cardinals @ 6:40pm

- Price: \$30 per ticket
- Face Value: \$42
- Payment deadline: Friday, Aug. 3, 2018

Game 3 – Wed., Sept. 5 vs. Giants @ 6:40pm

- Price: \$27 per ticket
- Face Value: \$29
- Payment deadline: Wed., Aug. 15, 2018



Julia Greeley's Canoe ►

Since the last issue of the *Wagon*, numerous people have put their petitions for Julia's intercession into her wagon. You are invited to join them in doing so at juliascanoe@gmail.com

Guild members and other friends of Julia who would like to join Julia in her prayers for these petitions as part of the Guild's effort to promote Julia's cause are invited to do so at juliascanoeprayercircle@gmail.com by submitting your name and email address. Lists of the petitions will be sent to the circle members periodically.

Paid 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>

Friends of Julia

On our mailing lists – 6.21.2018

767

which includes

Guild Members

Dues paying –6-21-2018

107

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Appendix

What Julia Greeley Learned from the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila's
Homily for the Julia Greeley
Centennial Mass, June 7, 2018

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Today is a historic day for the Church of Northern Colorado as we gather in this cathedral church to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the death of **Julia Greeley** on this vigil of the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**. Her tomb is now in place, and you can see it by the crucifix; and there is also the image of the **Heart of Jesus** on the tomb as a reminder to us of her deep devotion and love for the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**. It is truly providential that she died on that solemnity and a revelation of the love of God for her and also for all who heeded her call for devotion to the **Sacred Heart**.

In our readings for this solemnity, in the first reading from Hosea, we hear the Lord revealing himself as a loving father. *"Out of Egypt I called my son, ... I ... taught Ephraim to walk, ... [I] took them in my arms. I drew them with human cords, with bands of love; I fostered them like one who raises an infant to his cheeks.... My heart is overwhelmed, my pity is stirred"* (Hos. 11: 1,3-4,8). And in that we hear the tenderness of God to all humanity. The God who has created

every human being from the moment of conception in his image and likeness, who has given life and who has created us to reflect him.

As we hear in the beginning of the Book of Genesis, *"In his image and likeness he created them, male and female he made them"* (Gen. 1:26). And it is with great tenderness that the Lord desires to be intimate with every human being that they may come to know and to receive his love, and one can taste the tenderness and intimacy of God in the language that is used in the Book of Hosea. Have you



sensed and received that type of love from the Father? Certainly, it was the love that **Julia** was deeply aware of in her own heart, by the way that she lived her life. She knew that she was loved by the Father. She knew herself as a beloved daughter of the Father.

The fact that she was known as the Angel of Charity shows that she was rooted in that love, and in her love, **Christ** himself was revealed. In the Gospel reading, we hear of the death of **Jesus** and the two who were crucified with him. But we also hear that **Jesus** was already dead and that when his side was pierced, blood and water

immediately flowed out. And it is in the pierced **heart of Jesus** that the Church has always seen the total gift of self – the Lord reminds us in the Gospels and in his preaching that he has given his life for us, laid down his life for us. In the Eucharist: *“This is my body given for you.... This is my blood poured out for you”* (Lk. 22: 19-20). **Jesus**, who is true God and true man, reveals what true love looks like and what charity looks like. That it is deeply rooted in sacrifice, and it is deeply rooted in giving oneself completely to the Lord, no matter what the cost may be.

And we are told by John, that all of this testimony is given so that you also may come to believe, to put our faith in Jesus Christ, in the one alone who can forgive our sins and give to us eternal life. And it was precisely that faith that motivated **Julia Greeley**. It was her deep faith in **Jesus** that helped her to take seriously

the words, *“Love one another as I have loved you.”* And it was done without counting the cost. I remember, during the exhumation of her body, the person who was doing it, who would know, said this woman was filled with arthritis. No wonder it is noted she walked the way she walked. And she said her suffering and pain would have been constant. By bearing this arthritic pain, she shared in the sufferings of Jesus Christ, as she quietly went about delivering medicine, food, clothes, and other necessities to those who were poor and in need. As she did this, **Julia** never counted the cost. There is no testimony of her complaining about her arthritis. Nor did she complain about her suffering as she shuffled every First Friday of the month to all the firehouses to bring the pamphlets on the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**.

She had a missionary spirit. She was not afraid to proclaim **Christ**, she was not



afraid to invite others to come to know **Jesus** and his love for them, and she would go to firehouse after firehouse to make sure that they had the pamphlets. Once again in great humility and great simplicity. And we see that same humility in St. Paul. In his letter to the Ephesians, he refers to himself as the very least of all the holy ones, to whom this grace was given. And so too in the life of **Julia**, grace was given to her when one looks at that what she must have witnessed as a slave in seeing her mother beaten, in losing her own eye, and then being given freedom.

But in the midst of that, there appears in the testimonies about her no bitterness, no resentment, no seeking out of wanting people to feel sorry for her. Instead in her encounter with **Jesus** and in becoming Catholic, she realized the depths of God's love for her, and it changed the whole meaning of her life, and she went about serving, she went about giving of herself, not thinking of her own comfort, not thinking of her own being, but fixing her eyes on the needs of others.

She loved as **Jesus** loved and understood the command of the Lord, *"Love one another as I have loved you."* (Jn 15:12) And St. Paul goes on, *"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his spirit in the inner self. And that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love,*

may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones" (Eph 3: 14-18).

And it was precisely that grace that was given to **Julia**, that she so openly received within her own heart that she was strengthened with power through the spirit, and that Christ truly did dwell within her heart, for her heart was formed by the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**, because she was open and receptive to that and put her faith in that. And that is why, in the midst of her arthritis, in the brokenness of the pain of her own body, she still carried a joyful spirit, because she knew the Love of **Christ** which surpassed all knowledge. Her life is a witness to grace, to the power of God and humility and the total gift of self.

And one can see, even though the amount of material we have on her life is minimal, one can see by the testimonies through and by the witness of what we do have, the depths of her faith and depths of charity and how she lived it out so beautifully through her life. And so as we continue with the celebration of the Eucharist this evening, I encourage you my sisters and brothers to reflect on the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**, to reflect on the life of **Julia Greeley**.

And first, what does **Julia**'s life teach you about holiness, about what it means to be a disciple, of what it means to follow and receive the tender mercy of the Lord, to know the power of God dwelling within you through the spirit, and that **Christ** desires to make your heart his home, as he made the heart of **Julia** his home?

Secondly, how does her life teach you what it means to be a missionary disciple? Remember she had none of the luxury of the day or what we have today. She walked everywhere even dragging her leg and limping, but she served no matter what the cost. She never sought out adulation, she never sought out appreciation, she never sought out power or recognition. She simply served. And what does that say to us in bringing others to encounter **Christ** and to know **Christ**? How many of us would go out on the First Friday of every month and maybe not go to firehouses, but go door to door inviting people to come to know the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**, to know the love of **Jesus** for them? She had no fear in doing that.

And finally, what does it say about our own encounter with **Jesus Christ**, with the tenderness and mercy of the Father, and what is the invitation in the reading of Hosea and the reading from the Gospel or Paul, what does it say to your heart today, and how is the Lord speaking to you. May we hear well the tenderness of the Father who loves us. *“I drew them with human cords, with bands of love; I fostered them like one who raises an infant to his cheek.... My heart is overwhelmed.”* And the words of Paul, *“I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named ... that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that **Christ** may dwell in your heart through faith.”* (Eph. 3:14-17) May those words burn within our own heart as we lift our heart

in gratitude to the Father for the gift of the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**, the gift of his son to the world, and for the faithfulness of a former slave woman who was truly rooted and grounded in love. May we too be rooted and grounded in the love of **Christ** and filled with all the fullness of God.

View the entire centennial Mass at <https://livestream.com/accounts/3170708/events/8228656/videos/176002288>



Guild Contacts ►

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