



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**

Twenty-Third Issue 6-19-2020

Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus

Capacity Cathedral Mass Helps Guild Remember 102nd Anniversary of Her Death ♥

A capacity CDC congregation of about 50 attended the Guild's 8th annual Mass at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, June 7, marking the 102nd anniversary of Julia Greeley's passing heavenward. That was about 100 less than last year's far-from-real-capacity, but pandemic-inspired live streaming brought the real number of those who participated in this year's event to nearly 250, the largest number ever.

Auxiliary Bishop Jorge Rodriquez was the main celebrant and homilist, assisted by



Deacon Robert Finan. Frs. Ron Cattany, cathedral rector and custodian of Julia's remains, and Blaine Burkey concelebrated. The day was the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, so that Mass was celebrated rather than the traditional Mass of the Most Sacred Heart.



Bp. Rodriguez's Homily ♥

One of the two most important doctrines in the Christian faith is the faith in the Trinity. That is: that there is one God in three distinct Persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. To explain this mystery, saints and theologians have used many metaphors, all of them inadequate, but useful to approach this mystery.

We Christians believe this mystery is so important and fundamental of our faith in one God in three distinct persons, because Jesus revealed it and because what defines us as Christians is precisely the confession of our faith in the divinity of Jesus Christ and in the divinity of the Holy Spirit. In this trinitarian faith we were baptized: in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is the first prayer we learned, and the way we begin every individual or public prayer in the Church. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit our sins are forgiven; and in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit we are blessed at the last moment of our earthly life.

But besides being explicitly revealed by Jesus Christ, the mystery of the Trinity is the only way we have to dare to penetrate the mystery of God. We know that our human capacity is unable to penetrate God's mystery, the mystery of his inner being, of his essence is always inaccessible to us. But our faith in the dogma of the Most Holy Trinity helps us understand and give us this hint: that God is not a lonely God, but a God-family, a God-communion, a God who is love.

Our Trinitarian God makes us understand that God is a God who is open to the other, that is not closed in Himself. Our God is a communion of Persons in which each one gives totally to the other: Everything the Father is, He gives it to his Son; Everything the Son is, he is for his beloved Father. The love of the Father and the Son is personified in the Holy Spirit. In other words, our God is not a God who is focused on himself, egocentric... not like us trying to concentrate everything on us.... God doesn't have an egocentric personality: He is "élan" (eagerness to someone else), he is a Gift, giving, outpouring bounty and goodness. The Father gives us the whole creation; the

Son gives us his own life and his Spirit. This is what Jesus is trying to make us understand: that God is a communion of Persons because only in a community of Persons love exists and is real.

The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity speaks of John's understanding of God in his letter: "Because God is love." We men elaborate wrong ideas about God. When people have tried to express who or how God is, they came up with the idea of an angry God, the Punishing God, the Revengeful-God, the Condemning God, the controller and oppressive God... but those gods don't exist and never will. There is only one true God, and this is the God revealed to us by Jesus Christ: The God who is love.

The church celebrates the solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, that is, the mystery of God's fathomless and impenetrable inner life. A mystery we don't understand but we adore and profess every time we make the sign of the cross.

This is what we can understand: that we mean when we say that there is only one true God in three divine and distinct persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, is that we believe in a God who is love and nothing else than love. An infinite love in all directions, that reaches everyone as a wonderful gift of Himself. That he has opened this mystery of his love, of his intimate life to share it with you, and one day, to take you and to welcome you into this communion of divine life that is the Most Holy Trinity, to be embraced by the infinite pure love God is. This is our destination: to participate in the communion of love of the Most Holy Trinity: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Today we are celebrating our Julia Greeley Guild Annual Mass. Julia is a shining example of what I just said about Trinitarian love. We are praying for her beatification and eventually her

canonization. But this is merely a formality to make canonical a real example of holiness.

Since the day Julia was baptized, either in Missouri or in Denver, as her baptismal record certifies, since that very moment, the Most Holy Trinity has dwelled in her, and the finest, silent and divine work of her sanctification begun. The seed of divine life in her was nurtured by the frequent reception of Holy Communion and a loving relationship with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The hands of the divine Potter through the ordinary events of life, lived, shaped, and worked with love the soul of Julia. The dwelling of the Trinity in her soul bloomed in a loving prayer life and works of charity. She only needed to open her heart to God's presence and let Him work on her. This is the making of a saint. God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit made their dwelling in her and sanctified her from within.

Julia experienced the inhumane and cruel tragedy of slavery, abuse and racism. Only God knows the pain of a child impotently watching her mom being whipped by the slave master. I can picture little Julia crying her soul out at the scene while someone



holds her, impeding her from going to defend her mom. Try to imagine what it meant for her to live the rest of her life as a girl, as a teenager, and a woman with a disfigured face with only one eye because in the course of her mother being beaten, the slave master caught her eye with his whip. And as an emancipated black woman, she lived the rest of her life in humble service and poverty. And nevertheless, she did not hate, and she even took from the little she had to help the poor, many of whom were white. She appreciated, visited, and showed the love of Jesus to white public service men, firemen, Catholics and non. Julia passed untouched through this very sad part of the history of our country: slavery, racism, discrimination, segregation and lack of opportunities because of the color of her skin. Her secret was her love for Jesus and neighbor. This is the way of the saints: the way of love to change things, to bring about healing and true service beyond prejudice and division. This is the work of the presence of the Most Holy Trinity in a human heart.

It is very moving and inspiring in the history of Black Catholics in our country



how slavery, racism, segregation and discrimination have not impeded the blooming of magnificent holy people, many holy African American Catholics. Some of them on their way to sainthood.... People who walked through the sin of racism and suffering because of prejudice and the color of their skin, untouched because of their faith and love to Jesus. This is the astonishing power of holiness. The healing of the sin of racism and reconciliation comes from holiness and love. Racism will be defeated with holy lives and love. Christian love is able to unify and put together distinct persons in a community of brothers and sisters.

And this is the purpose of our journey in this life, the purpose of God's dwelling in us, and the power of grace. When her life ended, Julia was taken into the Heart of the Most Holy Trinity, where she will dwell for all eternity.

"This perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity - this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed - is called 'heaven.' Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness." (Catechism of the Catholic Church)

And this is precisely what God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is doing in you too, since the very day of your baptism: to make a saint of you, to help you being a holy man, a holy woman to fill this world with the love of Christ, to create a human family where everyone is welcomed and loved, where no one is excluded... and in the end, to take you with Him to Heaven: the masterpiece of the Most Holy Trinity in you.



May Planning Meeting Saw Guild Members Zooming in from New Jersey, Texas ♥

Prevented from meeting in person at the cathedral-basilica rectory, the Guild held its May 21st meeting on-line and was surprised by the arrival in the Zoom room of Mike O'Toole OFS, a 1981 founding member of the Guild who attended from Perrinville NJ, and Agnieszka "Jaga" Murphy, Guild promoter, who arrived from Austin TX.

The main topic of the meeting was



Mike O'Toole

Jaga Murphy

planning for the annual Mass, but those present also spoke about a second children's book on Julia which is in the early planning stages, and series of banners of saintly visitors to Denver, which are hanging along Colfax and Logan Streets and in the Mary Garden by the southeast corner of the basilica

All Guild Members and other Friends of Julia have been invited to our planning meetings which are normally held at the cathedral rectory, 1530 N. Logan. St. in Denver. During Covid-19 distancing, the meetings will continue to be held on Zoom, and one will need to contact Mary Leisring for an invitation to the Zoom room.

The Guild meets every third Thursday of the month, at 10:30 a.m. Next meetings: July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15.



Julia on Denver Sidewalks ♥

After an absence of 102 years, Julia's visage is back on the sidewalks of Denver as part of the "Saintry Visitors" series of lamppost banners. Planned by Fr. Ron Catany, cathedral rector; researched by Fr. Blaine; and executed by MaeAnn Saas of Eidos Architects, the series of nine banners of saintly visitors to Denver can be seen by drivers and pedestrians alike on Colfax and Logan Streets.

Julia's banner can be seen in front of the Mary Garden on the southeast side of the cathedral, with Mother Drexel to the west.

In order of their first arrivals in Denver, the saintly guests are:

Servant of God Julia Greeley, O.F.S.
Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, M.S.C.
Servant of God Leo Heinrich, O.F.M.
Saint Katharine Drexel, S.B.S.
Saint Paul VI, Pope
Venerable Fulton J. Sheen, Archbishop
Saint Teresa of Calcutta, M.C.
Servant of God Thea Bowman, O.S.F.
Saint John Paul II, Pope

Only Julia and Fr. Leo actually lived here.

Black Lives Haven't Always Mattered ♥

Shortly after Julia's banner went up, huge daytime rallies and marches were held in the streets around Julia's resting place, peacefully protesting the death of George Floyd and others black men by rogue police officers. After sundown, an angry, provocative mob arrived and, amidst other things, over \$45,200 of damage was done to the Cathedral Basilica.



Yesterday, June 18, the Guild had its second zoom meeting, and in a discussion of pursuing the peaceful route of antiracism, a number of books by Boston University's Ibram X. Kendi, were offered for suggested reading:

- ♥ Stamped from the Beginning (2016)
- ♥ How to Be an Antiracist (2019)
- ♥ AntiRacist Baby (2020)
- ♥ Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You (2020).

New Pamphlet on Julia ♥

Fr. Blaine's 24-page pamphlet entitled *An Hour with Julia Greeley*, was published by Liguorian Publications of Liguori MO, in February, and complimentary copies have been sent to all those renewing their Guild membership. Copies are available from the



Guild Office at the Cathedral Basilica for \$2.00 (which includes postage).

A published author who is writing a second children's book about Julia said of the pamphlet, "The pamphlet gave me the perfect amount of information to make me feel like I had met a new friend and also to make me long to read the book so I could know more about her."

In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart ♥

You can order our 143-page book about Julia via postal service by writing a check for \$20.00 **per book**, made out to "Cathedral Basilica" with "for book by Fr. Blaine" in the memo line, and mailing it with your full name and address to Julia Greeley Guild, 1535 N. Logan Street,



Denver CO 80203-1913. This will cover the cost of the book, sales tax, and domestic shipping. Please include both your email address and phone number in case we need to contact you. Unless we

are instructed otherwise, the Guild will automatically subscribe you to *Julia's Lil Red Wagon*, the Guild's free newsletter you have in hand.

Children's Book ♥

A copy of Annunciation Grade School's children's book, now in its second printing, is available by

mailing a check for \$15.00 **per book**, made out to "Cathedral Basilica" with "for the book by



the children" in the memo line, and mailing it with your full name and address to Julia Greeley Guild, 1535 N. Logan Street,

Denver CO 80203-1913. This will cover the cost of the book, sales tax, and domestic shipping. Please include both your email address and phone number in case we need to contact you.



Greeley Canoe Masses ♥

Intentions placed in Julia's Canoe, either by email or other forms of submission, are listed in a digital file constantly updated by Brigid Demko. In conjunction with the Guild, the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception is celebrating a series of monthly Masses for all in Julia's Canoe. Upcoming Masses will be on:

Fri., July 17, 5:30 p.m.

Thu., August 20, 5:30 p.m.

Sun., September 13, 5:30 p.m.

Thu., October 15, 5:30 p.m.

Thu., November 12, 5:30 p.m.

Thu., December 17, 5:30 p.m.

Place yourself and your intentions in Julia's Canoe at juliagreeleyscanoe@gmail.com

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 to the Guild in written form. Having these on file will enable the Cause to show the power of her intercession.

Recalling 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

Fr. Marcus Medrano

Official Guild Statistics ♥

Friends of Julia

On our mailing lists – 6-19-2020

935

which includes

Guild Members

Dues paying –06-19-2020

161

Paid Memberships ♥

Help us build our **paid** membership by joining the **Julia Greeley Guild** and inviting others to join. A membership application form can be found and printed at our web site, <http://www.juliagreeley.org/guild.html>

Dues are \$20 a year or \$50 for three years. Married couples are enrolled for a single fee. All checks sent to the Guild should be made payable to "Cathedral Basilica," with the notation on the memo line "for Julia Greeley Guild"

More Information ♥

Guild official web site:

<http://www.juliagreeley.org>.

"Julia Greeley: Our Model of Mercy"

<https://vimeo.com/151101683>

PowerPoint by Mary Leisring

<https://youtu.be/RjK4SdAOP41>

Guild Contacts ♥

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Guild Officers ♥

Mary Leisring, President & Treasurer

Kevin Knight, Secretary

Fr. Ron Cattany, Pastor

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

Other Guild Officers ♥

Frankie Rachell-Bruce, phone secretary

Sharon Doerflinger, membership secretary

Dustin Caldwell, recording secretary

Minnie Cassell, associate secretary

Essy Goffinett, associate secretary

Ria de Dios, associate secretary

Wagoneers ♥

Fr. Blaine Burkey, pro tem editor; Mary Leisring, president & circulation manager.

