



# 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-Sixth Issue 11-17.2020**

**Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary**  
**Julia's Secular Franciscan Patron**

## Venerating Holy People Sign of Spiritual Vitality of a Local Church ♥

by Andrzej Derdziuk, O.F.M.Cap.

Veneration of saints is an expression of the faith of the devotees in the intercessory power of the saints before the throne of God. It also demonstrates the readiness of the faithful living in a specific time to recall and continue the spiritual heritage handed down by the [holy persons'] heroic witnessing to Christ during their earthly life. Therefore, the veneration of [saintly people] becomes

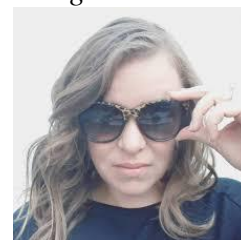
an incentive to imitate them, thus, contributing to an elevation of the spiritual life of the faithful. At the same time, a decision to cultivate the memory of those [holy persons] is a measure of the faith of the current members of the Church, who treat the truths of the faith as something tangible and concretize in their everyday life the article in the *Credo* on the communion of saints.

Spiritual and physical manifestations of veneration of saints and blessed are, therefore, an important part of Church life and it should be a subject of research on the religiosity of specific communities. The vitality of a particular part of the Church is reflected by the fact that while being rooted in the past it becomes active in the present to open up to the eternity of tomorrow in heavenly happiness.

*(Extracted with minor adaption from "Veneration of the Blessed Martyrs of World War II in the Warsaw Capuchin Province," Collectanea Franciscana 40 (2020) 128.)*

## From Mrs. VicePostulator ♥

*Editorial introduction: I've asked our Vice Postulator several times to share a few words about Julia, but he always and really has been too busy. My mistake was asking the wrong person. Surfing on the internet in late March of 2020, I serendipitously stumbled on the following article which appeared two years ago in a Catholic News Agency's blog spot entitled "Mama Needs Coffee." During the whirlwind of the pandemic the article got buried again. It's no longer news, and it seems no longer on the Web, but it sure is a great historical document that Julia's Lil' Red Wagon is privileged to preserve. The unsigned article clearly came from the pen of Dave Uebbing's daughter Zelig's Mama, Jenny, and I'm glad she loves a lot of coffee.*



# Our morning at the congregation for saints

One of the best/weirdest parts of Catholicism is definitely the Communion of Saints. If you think hard enough about how the Bible talks about dead people and how all Christians uniformly revere St. Paul and St. Luke and St. John and the rest of the NT crew, it's not too difficult to wrap your brain around what we Catholics believe about our heavenly intercessors, and why. But for some people it proves to be a real theological and conceptual sticking point.

Some common objections: "but they're dead!" Well, not if you believe in eternal life with Christ.

"You can't pray to a human person! Only Jesus answers prayers." But we don't pray "to" the saints, we ask them to pray for us. Which is Biblical.

"Who are we to say that someone is definitively in heaven? That's just silly."

Well, not to keep beating the dead horse that he fell off of, but St. Paul comes to mind. And the Virgin Mary. And St. Joseph. Moses. St. Timothy. St. Barnabas.

"Okay, okay, but anyone past Biblical times ... we can't know for sure if they're up there. Sola Scriptura and all."

Well, there is the small matter of the Catholic Church having compiled and declared which books of the Bible were canonical, preserving the words and eyewitness testimony of Christ (along with the Jews and the Jewish Scriptures) from antiquity to the present day.

Really it comes down to a matter of faith. Either you believe that Jesus is God, that He died and rose again, that He took our sins upon Himself on the Cross and offers us salvation and eternal life with Him in heaven, or you don't.

If you do believe, I highly recommend cultivating a relationship with His saints and martyrs so as to have some great role models and powerful intercessors to lean on. (Some of my personal heroes: Mother Mary, St. John Paul

II, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Zelie Martin, St. Joseph, St. Therese, St. Joan of Arc, St. Thomas More, St. John Vianney, St. John Bosco, St. Padre Pio, St. Mother Teresa, St. Michael, St. Josemaria Escriva, and Servant of God Julia Greeley.)

Our trip to Rome last month was for one primary purpose: to deliver the documents detailing the diocesan investigation of the cause for canonization for Servant of God Julia Greeley. Learn about her [here](https://denvercatholic.org/from-slavery-to-a-tomb-for-a-dignitary/)

[<https://denvercatholic.org/from-slavery-to-a-tomb-for-a-dignitary/>] if you haven't heard her



name before. The tl;dr [which I learned is internet acronym for "too long, didn't read"] is that Julia, a freed slave who worked and lived in Denver at the turn of the 20th century, is known as Denver's "angel of charity"

for her service to the poor, her apostolic zeal, and her devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. My husband was appointed "vice postulator" to her cause, and so we've spent the past 3 years getting a unique up close view of the Church's saint-making process.

That he was tapped to head to Rome as the official carrier of the documents was icing on the cake. Zelie and I couldn't resist tagging along for the ride as his plus one and two. We were in the Eternal City for a little under a week, and it was a beautiful, restorative and almost entirely stress-free affair (the flight home is sealed deep within my subconscious memory for future nightmare material.)

On the Friday morning of our trip, we got up bright and early and headed to 8 am Mass in St. Peter's with my Italian co-workers, the CNA/EWTN Rome staff, lingered with the crew for a brief coffee break, and then dashed back to our hotel in the Borgo to retrieve the documents for Dave's big appointment at the Congregazione delle Cause dei Santi.

Now when I reference “documents,” I don’t mean a nice leather portfolio with a few signed papers, or even an accordeon file, but 4 enormous legal boxes (wrapped in red ribbon and sealed in wax with the Archbishop of Denver’s episcopal crest) which contained more than 17,000 pages of documentation. As the gentleman serving as postulator for Julia’s cause quipped while we waited in the lobby “that’s a lot of words for a woman who was illiterate!”

The documentation details everything known about Julia’s life, from her time on a plantation in Missouri as a domestic slave, to her life of charity in Denver, and included the forensic analysis of her mortal remains and countless first hand testimonies culled from various ecclesial and government archives about her character and her work.

After some deliberation about how exactly to get all that stuff to Italy, we ended up checking each of the 39.9 lb boxes as our checked baggage (thanks, Air Canada!) and prayed anxiously at the baggage claim at Fiumicino that they would arrive unscathed.

Arrive they did, and with wax seals still miraculously intact.



As we ducked back into our hotel room that morning to load up the boxes, Zelig had a wardrobe malfunction that required some serious scrubbing and

swapping of garments. I urged Dave to leave without me, figuring I’d definitely be able to catch up with a guy in a suit dragging 150 lbs of cardboard boxes across the cobbled streets outside St. Peter’s Square in the late morning heat of Rome.

Well, I was wrong, and when Zay and I did arrive at the building south of the Square where I knew the office to be located, there was no husband in sight. Trusting myself to the mercy and kindness shown to women with babies by every Italian man I’ve ever met, I tickled Zelig’s chin to make her smile and confidently pushed the stroller past the armed guard in the courtyard and up to the security station inside. Using my broken Itanglish and pure native charm, I convinced the bemused gentleman that he

should wave us into the secure elevator and up to “Santi, santi!” to catch up with my beau.



Baby power being what it is in Italy, he acquiesced, and so Zelig and I burst into the outer office for the dicastery in the midst of a confused crowd of nuns and Monsignors sitting behind desks. (Okay, okay, they were sisters, technically.) They cocked their heads at us as I smiled and asked if anyone had seen an American guy with a lot of boxes.



Eventually we reunited with Dave and our postulator, a dapper German fellow in a bespoke suit who bemusedly pushed the umbrella stroller through the marble corridors once I’d switched Zelig to the baby carrier to quiet her shrieks.

While waiting for our appointment (running predictably on Italian time, to sweaty Dave’s chagrin) I surveyed the tables near our seats. They were covered with holy cards depicting Blesseds, Venerables, and Servants of God from all over the world – an array of currently open causes of the Universal Church. I grabbed a few cards for Fr Jacques Hamel, martyr priest from France, slaughtered at the altar by Islamic terrorists while praying the Mass a few years ago.



When it was finally our turn to meet with the priest who reports to the head of the dicastery, Zelig was fast asleep, and so I was able to pay close attention to the proceedings.

Causes awaiting finalization, filed and waiting. When a cause is completed, it will eventually move to the Vatican's secret archives.

I have to say, after years of research and work and a few formal liturgical ceremonies on Denver's end, Rome was so typically Italian that I had to bite the inside of my cheek to keep from laughing. At one point the



monsignor looked up from the documentation he was affixing his signatures to and quipped "the director's office is one side of this wall, and the Adoration chapel with the Blessed Sacrament and the office of miracles is on the other. So you might say everyone who is filed away here in my office is in Purgatory, stuck right between Heaven and Hell!"

Once the signatures were complete and the interview finished, Fr. opened a door in the side of the room to a – I'm not kidding – giant,



overstuffed utility closet filled with packing bubbles, cardboard boxes, and giant Rubbermaid containers. Our clean white boxes jauntily tied with red satin ribbon and embossed

wax seals trundled into that closet looking like American overachievement incarnate.

Looking a little wearied by the state of the storage room, Father dropped to crouch and shoved some cardboard boxes aside, using his foot to nudge a pile of bubble wrap further out of the way.

"Here you go, let's put Julia right here. No, no, let's push that other box over, she should stay together."

Viva Italia.

(NB: Julia's mortal remains are not in the boxes, just her files.)

And after a few photos and a handshake, that was that.

Afterwards Dave and I toasted his success with prosecco for Julia, "I'm glad you got to come with me, babe. That was pretty amazing."

I kind of thought so too.

We clinked our glasses together, laughing over how she would probably respond to all the pomp and circumstance surrounding her, and how typically Italian Italy is, and always will be.

I hope I get to sit down with her one day in heaven and find out. Until then, Servant of God Julia Greeley, pray for us!

(If you have miracle stories of answered prayers from Julia's intercession, submit them [here](https://denvercatholic.org/have-a-devotion-to-julia-greeley-the-archdiocese-wants-to-hear-from-you/) [https://denvercatholic.org/have-a-devotion-to-julia-greeley-the-archdiocese-wants-to-hear-from-you/].)

## Getting Out Of Purgatory ♥

The monsignor's metaphor about his office is now rather poignant. **The files on Julia have been stuck in Purgatory since Sept. 14, 2018.** Let's keep praying that they soon be delivered from his closet and begin to be used to build the necessary Positio.

## Julia in Pflaum's Vision ♥

Once we had the above article formatted, the Vice-Postulator forwarded some good news. Iconographer Vivian Imbruglia's granddaughter discovered her grandmother's icon of Julia in the Oct. 25 issue of Pflaum Publishing's *Visions* catechetical weekly, which went to thousands of

seventh and eighth grade readers. The Catholic educational publisher, located in Moraine OH, featured an entire page on “Servant of God Julia Greeley: Model of Mercy • Angel of Charity,” which showed both the icon and the photo on which the icon was based. Vivian sent copies on to David Uebbing along with a Julia Greeley coffee mug which she commissioned.

### **Also a *Magnificat* Article ♥**

An article on Julia by Heather King entitled “Credible Witnesses: Servant of God Julia Greeley” can be read on pp. 100-101 of *Magnificat*’s monthly missal for November, Black Catholic History Month..

### **Like Efforts by the Guild ♥**

Guild members have been unable to present on-site programs on Julia during the social distancing months of 2020, but the word has found its own way to move about.

Mary Leisring has been involved in two video presentations on Julia Greeley:

The first with Brian O’Neel’s YouTube channel, “That Catholic Saints Guy,” on Oct 10.

Another with the Diocese of Columbus OH’s #Walking with the Saints, on Nov. 1.

If we learn of links to these events, we will mention them in a future issue.

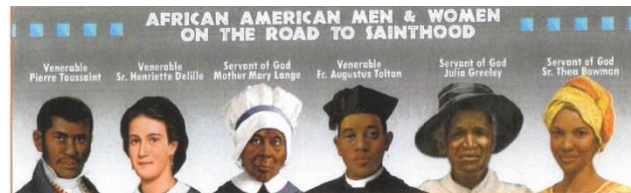
### **And Now Another Julia ♥**

“Greetings to the Julia Greeley Guild.

“My name is Sarah Paynter. This time last year I was pregnant with our fourth child. We had decided on Julia as our top girl name – it was my husband’s great (x4) grandma’s name. One night, I decided to do some research to see if there were any saints of that name. I don’t remember looking that night but the following morning I was reading the *Blessed Is She* daily devotional and there at the end it talked about Julia Greeley! I followed the link to the guild’s website, so excited that God had led me to

our Julia’s patron saint. Our sweet Julia Rose was born in March.

“ I look forward to following Julia’s cause for canonization. Thank you for all you are doing to get her story out! Servant of God Julia Greeley, pray for us!”



### **In a Cloud of Witnesses ♥**

Mary Leisring will represent the Guild in one of three sessions of “Celebrating the Cloud of Witnesses,” an in-depth educational experience striving to inspire the Christian faithful through the witness of the Story of Six Sainly Men and Women. Sponsored by the Tolton Ambassadors-DC, in collaboration with the USCCB, and the archdioceses of Washington and Cincinnati, the program promises to have a focused dialogue in the areas of authentic worship, racism, ageism, poverty and more, while celebrating “how experience triumphed over tragedies!”

The session devoted to Julia Greeley and Thea Bowman will be on Nov. 21 at 1 pm MST, with zoom doors opening at 12:30.

For free registration to the on-line event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/122107178859>

### **Julia on Social Media ♥**

To expand interest in Julia Greeley’s cause and in an effort to increase membership and friendship in the Guild, we have launched a Facebook page. This page is being managed by Brigid Demko of the Cathedral Basilica staff. The page entitled “Julia Greeley Guild at the Cathedral Basilica” can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2732619723633828>

We are also in the planning stage of launching Twitter and Instagram pages that will be designed and managed by Guild member Dustin Caldwell.

All three social media platforms will be overseen by Guild President Mary Leisring.

## Otherwise Unexplainable ♥

In the process of discerning a person's worthiness for beatification and canonization, once it has been established by Rome that the person practiced the virtues to a heroic degree, it then becomes necessary to point to a favor received through the person's intercession in a case in which there is no other explainable reason than divine intervention.

In the hope that someday this will be necessary in Julia's cause, it is useful to hear what Capuchin Fr. Edward Foley, vice-postulator of Blessed Solanus Casey's cause, has to say about his current efforts. Listen to <https://solanuscasey.org/blessed-solanus-casey-next-steps-on-the-road-to-sainthood>



## 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. Beginning in 2021 these will be on the First Fridays of the month (except for April when Good Friday falls on the First Friday. Starting in November, a member of the Guild will lead a prayer for

Julia's intercession at the Litany of the Sacred Heart after the Mass near Julia's tomb in the Sacred Heart Chapel. Upcoming Masses will be on:

**2020 Thu., November 12, 5:30 p.m.**

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

**2021 Fri., January 1, 5:30 p.m.**

**Fri., February 5, 12:20 p.m.**

**Fri., March 5, 5:30 p.m.**

**Fri., April 9, 5:30 p.m.**

**Fri., May 7, 12:10 p.m.**

**Fri., June 5, 5:30 p.m.**

**Fri., July 2, 12:10 p.m.**

**Fri., August 6, 5:30 p.m.**

**Fri., September 3, 12:10 p.m.**

**Fri., October 1, 5:30 p.m.**

**Fri., November 5, 12:10 p.m.**

**Fri., December 3, 5:30 p.m.**

Place yourself and your intentions in Julia's Canoe at [juliagreeleyscanoe@gmail.com](mailto:juliagreeleyscanoe@gmail.com)

## NEW Julia Uniforms For Public Meetings ♥

Handmade "Julia Greeley Stoles" for use at public guild affairs are now available. Designed for use over red blouses or shirts at public meetings the stoles were designed and fabricated by Patricia Taylor and are available at the Guild office for \$35.00. The stole has an emblem of the Sacred Heart on one side and one of a little red wagon on the other. There are two models, one with red beading, and the other with black beading.

## Associate in the Spotlight ♥

*In its "Weekly Update" for Oct. 15, the National Black Sisters' Conference honored our president, Mary Leisring.*

Mrs. Mary Leisring has been a member of the National Black Sisters' Conference for about 13 years. She has been married to

husband Charles for 44 years. In an article she wrote about her marriage, she says “....my husband and I have shared a belief from the very beginning: that God is a partner in our marriage. The first letter of St. John (I John 4:12) reads, ‘If we love one another, God remains in us and His love is brought to perfection in us.’

Mary has been involved in Black Catholic Ministry through most of her life: as Director of the Archdiocese of Denver Office of Black Catholics for seventeen years;(now retired), as a member of the National Black Catholic Administrators and the National Black Sisters’ Conference; and as the Spiritual Mother for her Denver priests.

Mary introduced us to Servant of God Julia Greeley and her little red wagon. In her retirement she has taken a part-time position to promote the Canonization of Servant of God Julia Greeley who died in Denver in 1918. The NBSC Board has named an award given to an outstanding associate in Julia Greeley’s name.

Did you Know: Mary Leisring marched in Selma, Alabama, on Bloody Sunday and was injured? I will let her tell her story in her own words. “Dr. King had addressed us with instructions for non-violent resistance no matter what they did to us. He told us we could expect dogs, fire hoses, jeers, rocks, bottles, insults, and being spat upon, but we were to take it all peacefully. Everything he warned us about happened to the hundredfold. The Selma March has gone down in history as “Bloody Sunday.” There were 15,000 people as we crossed over the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I saw priests and sisters among others beaten with billy clubs and knocked to the ground. A lunging dog bit my hand. People around me were bleeding. I was afraid I was going to be seriously hurt or even killed. I could not understand how people could be so cruel.” Thank you for your courage Mary.

## **Guild Forebearers♥**

*honored posthumously*

**Msgr. Matthew Smith**  
**Agnes Rooney Urquhart**  
**Marjorie Ann Urquhart Simpson**  
**Fr. Eugene Murphy, S.J.**  
**Eleanor Pavella Castellan**  
**Theodora O'Donnell Arnold**  
**Fr. Pacificus Kennedy, O.F.M.**

## **Honorary Life Members ♥**

*honored while with us*

**Fr. Marcus Medrano**  
**Mary Frances O'Sullivan**  
**Sr. Mary Prudence Allen, R.S.M.**  
**Fr. Gene Emrisek, O.F.M.Cap.**  
**Linda Marie Skidmore Chase**

## **Deceased 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**  
**Joseph Staab**

## **Official Guild Statistics ♥**

### **Friends of Julia**

*On our mailing lists – 11-17-2020*

**1,001**

*which includes*

### **Guild Members**

*Dues paying –11-17-2020*

**215**



## **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**

## **Guild Contacts ♥**

**Julia Greeley Guild**  
c/o Cathedral Basilica  
1535 N. Logan St.  
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[juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com](mailto:juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com)  
(303) 558-6685  
[www.juliagreeley.org](http://www.juliagreeley.org)

## **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 ♥**

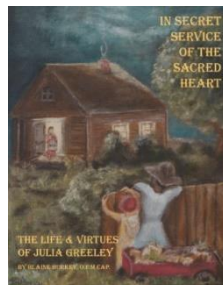
Fr. Blaine Burkey, pro tem editor; Mary Leisring, president & circulation manager.



## **Greeley Guild Galleria**

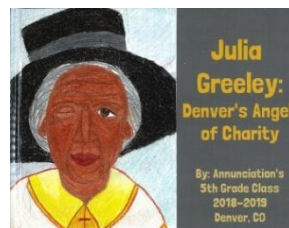
The Guild has a number of items available for purchase at its office at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, 1525 N. Logan St., Denver CO 80203-1913. A check made out to "Cathedral Basilica" in the amount of the price of the item(s) wanted and the name and address, phone number, and email address of the purchaser should be accompanied by the item number(s) and number of copies desired. Domestic shipping and sales tax will be paid for by the Guild. Quantity discounts and foreign shipping should be discussed ahead of time with the Guild at 720-352-4995.

Unless told otherwise, the Guild will subscribe free of charge all purchasers to *Julia's Lil Red Wagon*, the Guild's free newsletter you have in hand.



**Item JG-11 -- In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart: Remembering the Life and Virtues of Denver's Angel of Charity, Julia Greeley, O.F.S.,** a 156-page book by Fr. Blaine Burkey,

O.F.M.Cap., bringing together everything of significance about Julia published between 1918 and 2012. -- \$20.00 a copy.



**Item JG-12 – Julia Greeley: Denver's Angel of Charity,** a full-color children-illustrated 17-page book, produced by Annunciation grade

school's fifth-grade class, now in its second printing. -- \$15.00 a copy.



**Item JG-13 – An Hour with Julia Greeley,** a 24-page pamphlet by Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., provides an excellent brief and accessible overview of Julia's life and witness. -- \$2.00 a copy

