



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**

Thirtieth Issue 7-17-2021

Julia's Annual Death Anniversary Mass ♥

Auxiliary Bishop Jorge Rodrigues was main celebrant and homilist at the annual guild-sponsored Mass marking the 103rd anniversary of Julia Greeley's death.

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was appropriately decorated for the event by the strategic placement of five large red wagons, one of which was used to bring the offertory gifts to the altar.

Fr. Ron Cattany cathedral rector and guardian of Julia's remains, Fr. Robert Fisher, and Fr. Blaine Burkey concelebrated, and Deacons Clarence McDavid, Steve



Celebrating Julia's Annual Death Anniversary: Deacon Steve Stemper, Deacon Clarence McDavid, Bishop Jorge Rodriguez, Fr. Blaine Burkey, and Fr. Bob Fisher. Also in the sanctuary: Fr. Ron Cattany and Deacon David Arling.

Stemper and David Arling OFS assisted the bishop. About 30 Friends and Members of The Guild, many of them dressed in red, and about another 50 faithful joined to make the event extra-festive.

'I'd Love to See That Day' ♥

Bishop Jorge Rodriguez's 2021 Homily

As we have been doing for some years, we gather around the Eucharistic table, close to Julia Greeley's remains, placed by the Crucifix and the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: her only love. We celebrate the anniversary of Julia Greeley's birth to eternal life.

Official declaration of Julia's sainthood is our hope. We pray for this to happen. The Church waits for the required and verified miracles to happen. We even anticipate the joy for the whole archdiocese of Denver, and especially for our African American Catholic community, of the day when the church will declare solemnly:

"For the honor of the Blessed Trinity, / the exaltation of the Catholic faith and the increase of the Christian life, / by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, / and of

the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, / and our own, / after due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance, /and having sought the counsel of many of our brother Bishops, / we declare and define Julia Greeley to be Saint / and we enroll her among the Saints, / decreeing that she is to be venerated as such by the whole Church. / In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

I would love to see that day!

But Julia Greeley's sainthood doesn't depend on that day; and her message about sainthood is not for the future, but for today, and for you and me. Cardinal Semeraro,

Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, said in an interview last month that "The saints don't need our recognition, the proclamation of saints is useful on earth, not for Heaven, but when we appreciate them as such, we recognize the presence of God among us and, what can be more beautiful and comforting for a Christian than to feel the warmth of the closeness of the Lord?"

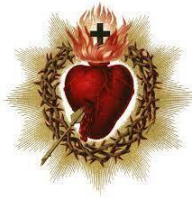
Our sister Julia, one of us in our Church in Denver, was the loving presence of God among us, a beautiful expression of God's love, especially for the poor, and a warm reflection of God's holiness: without



Sacred Heart red signaled the presence of the Guild surrounding the Servant of God Julia Greeley's remains: Jean Torkelson, Mary Callan, Nancy Amour, Ria DeDios, Essy Goffinett, Frankie Rachel-Bruce, Minnie Cassell, Bp. Jorge Rodriguez, Elsie Dixon, Sr. Marion Weinzapfel, Kate Springs, Kateri Joda Williams, Debbie Nowak, Angelita Sims, Shana Warner, Dustin Caldwell, Fr. Ron Cattany and Fr. Blaine Burkey.

sophistication or grandiosity, but simple, real and genuine.

On this occasion we are celebrating the votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, because we know how great her love for Jesus was, and how heartfelt her devotion to His heart was. This love explains Julia's holy life. This love is what makes Saints: the gracious love of Jesus in us, and our openness to this love.



I wonder what the connection between Julia's life and heart was to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. There was something in the Sacred Heart that touched Julia's heart and dragged her to Jesus' love.

In life, Julia knew slavery and had to navigate through discrimination and segregation. She surely experienced and was aware of the sufferings of black people during the time she lived.

I don't know if she ever had to sit only in the back of the church. Such experiences hurt deeply people's dignity deeply and upset all their emotional life. In life, Julia knew only serving people and making other people's life more comfortable. She had to obey other people's will all the time, and do things as commanded. And a life of poverty, probably loneliness. I cannot imagine the impact of Jesus's words on the heart of Julia at the end of the day: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-30). And the statue of Jesus showing to her his heart and stretching out his arms towards her, was the most moving expression of God loving her as a daughter, despite her humble origin and social

condition, being born into slavery. a help. Jesus, personally looking at her and inviting her to his love

meant the world to her. Only Jesus in the heart of this holy woman, can explain how slavery, discrimination,



segregation, poverty and social margination didn't touch her heart; instead, keeping her heart loving, forgiving, generous and humble. Julia, that woman dragging a red wagon, or handing out medals of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, walking among the indifference of some, looked down by others, or attracting some sympathy looks, was--in the words of Card. Semeraro--"the presence of God among us and, beautiful and comforting warmth of the closeness of the Lord." And this happened and was real, before any declaration of Julia Greeley as Servant of God, or Blessed or Saint. In Julia we see the power of Love. The love of Jesus makes saints. The love of Julia for Jesus helps us to be saints. For sure Julia knew about the words of Jesus when he appeared to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque: "Behold the Heart which has so loved men that it has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming Itself, in order to testify Its love; and in return, I receive from the greater part only ingratitude"

The suffering heart of Jesus spoke loudly to the suffering heart of Julia. Julia identified with the suffering and loving Jesus. I don't know how longer we will wait to hear the



solemn proclamation of Julia's canonization, but today Julia Greeley tells us that holiness is real, that holiness is among us, that holiness is always present, that God's love makes saints.... And with her life, she reminds us that each one of us is called to be a saint. Those saints walking in our streets, sitting on our pews bringing the love of Jesus in their hearts and been His hands to take care of the poor. Are we able to recognize God's love in us and in others? Are we able to recognize the saints among us today? If the answer was "yes", then, we would have been able to recognize something special, something divine, in that black woman handing out little medals, or dragging a red wagon by the streets of Denver!



New Edition Available in Various Venues♥

The new edition of In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart sells for \$22.00 and its contains 25 totally new pages and 17 color photos. The new edition is available through Julia Greeley.org, as well as at Gerkens Religious Goods in Denver, Thomas More Parish Book Store in Centennial, Cabrini Shrine Gift Shop in Golden, and the Josephite Center in Baltimore..

Greeley Home Distinguished♥



Historic Denver recently chose Julia's 1903-1916 Boarding House at 2913 Walnut for one of its 50 Actions, a 2021 program meant to identify and make better known various new historical sites in the city. **planOmatic**, a company providing property insights, 3D tours, photography and floor plans for the real estate industry, which occupies the building, has expressed a willingness to have signage posted to acquaint passersby with the structure's historical nature. You can see Historic Denver's announcement of their choice at <https://50actions.historicdenver.org/places/julia-greeley-home>. It probably would be helpful for our own cause to leave a favorable comment at the site.

Fun Raising Fundraiser♥

The Julia Greeley Guild Fundraiser

The Colorado Rockies invite you to come enjoy a game while giving back to The Julia Greeley Fund!
\$33 lower level (\$40 face value)
 For available games, please call
720-352-4995
 (available on Tuesdays & Thursdays)

Please make checks payable to the **Julia Greeley Fund**
 Please submit check payment to:
 Mary Leising
 Cathedral Basilica
 1535 N. Logan Street
 Denver, CO 80203

- These are the dates/times for the games:
1. Sun., August 8th vs. Marlins @ 1:10 pm
 2. Sat., Aug. 21st vs. D-Backs @ 6:10 pm
 3. Sun., Sept. 26th vs. Giants @ 1:10 pm



Julia at Light of the World ♥

Kathryn Nygaard, director of communications for Light of the World Catholic Church in Littleton is designing four wall panels for the interior of the parish's new Julia Greeley Outreach Center which will house a food pantry and other social services. She hopes to use the panels to depict Julia's life. The new center expects to be dedicated later in the summer.

Julia Presentations ♥

- ♥ Hispanic Young Adults, Archdiocese of Denver, K.of C. Hall, Grant St., June 5, Dustin Caldwell and Kateri Williams.
- ♥ Howard University, Washington DC, ZOOM, date TBD, Mary Leisring
- ♥ Julia Greeley Committee at St. Matthew the Apostle Church, Gahanna OH, ZOOM, date TBD, Mary Leisring.

An Old Black Woman & \$5 ♥

For members of one family, Julia Greeley is always by their side. In January, 2020, Ann, a devoted grandmother, was praying outside a hospital where her newborn grandson,

Tommy, was undergoing delicate, life-saving surgery. Months before, she had learned about Julia Greeley's cause for sainthood and decided she would place her grandson in Julia's care.

While they waited, Ann and her husband Paul were walking around the hospital grounds. Suddenly, coming toward them was an old black woman walking with a cane. Her eyes were glassy, and it was obvious she could not see well. The old woman asked the worried grandparents if they had five dollars so that she could take the bus home. As Ann recalled, "We gave her money and she looked right into my eyes and said, "God bless you."

At that very moment, their daughter called from inside the hospital to say that Tommy's surgery had just ended successfully, and he was doing fine!

Once back in the neonatal unit, Tommy was in good care, too. The name of his first nurse? Julia.



Car Found in Julia's Canoe ♥

On Jan. 31, 2019, Kenzie H. placed a request in Julia's Canoe:

"Hi, I am a missionary and I do not have a car, nor do I have the financial means to get one. I would greatly appreciate prayers that if it is the Lord's will he would provide a car for me so that I may better serve him through my ministry. I was reading about Julia and her story is incredible. Thank you so much for your prayers.

On Aug. 13, 2019, there was another note from Kenzie H.

[illegible]

Julia's Canoe Masses ♥

These are on the First Fridays of the month. A member of the Guild leads a prayer for Julia's intercession and the Litany of the Sacred Heart after the Mass near Julia's tomb in the Sacred Heart Chapel. Upcoming Masses will be on:

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

All Guild Members and other Friends of Julia are welcome at our planning meetings. During the pandemic, we meet by ZOOM every Third Thursday of the month at 10:30 am MT. Next meetings: Aug. 19 and Sept. 16. If you have not previously been to a meeting, you will need to contact us at 720-352-4995 to obtain the meeting ID number and password. ZOOM meetings have allowed friends of Julia to join us from anywhere on the planet. We've already enjoyed having friends from Perrineville NJ, Austin TX, Duluth and Minneapolis MN and Jefferson City MO join the Colorado faithful.

Friends of Julia
On our mailing lists – 7-17-2021

which includes

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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, <https://www.juliagreeley.org/guild.html>
Dues are \$20 a year or \$50 for three

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 Guild Friends.

Geraldine Magnie
 Elaine Massie
 Hanna Nevin
 Ginger Perkins
 Wilmetta Ann Roth
 Fr. Marcus Medrano
 Joseph Staab
 Patricia Lucille Deleon
 Janie Smith

Our Officers ♥

Mary Leisring, President & Treasurer
 Dustin Caldwell, Vice President
 Kevin Knight, Secretary
 Fr. Ron Cattany, Pastor *till July 1*
 Fr. Sam Morehead, Pastor *as of July 1*
 Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., Consultant

Guild Contacts ♥

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 (303) 558-6685
<https://www.juliagreeley.org>



Greeley Guild Galleria

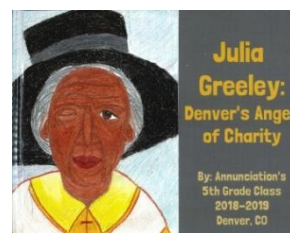
The Guild has a number of items available for purchase at its office at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, 1525 N. Logan St., Denver CO 80203-1913. A check made out to "Cathedral Basilica" in the amount of the price of the item(s) wanted and the name and address, phone number, and email 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-14 -- In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart: Remembering the Life and Virtues of Julia Greeley, 3rd edition, 168-page book by Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., bringing

together everything of significance about Julia published between 1918 and 2021. -- \$22.00 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

