



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
Thirty-fourth Issue 3-9-2022**

“A Remarkable Soul” ♥ Julia Greeley

by Carol Wong

A little red wagon quietly making its rounds
Delivering necessities while no one is around

Carried by a woman glowing with love
Bringing others happiness, shining light from above

Always craving anonymity, never wanting the fame
Everything she did was in “Jesus’ name!”

Helping the poor, unceasingly praying all alone
Living in humility to attain her heavenly home

I know Julia’s in heaven; I know she still cares
I know Julia’s a soul that is truly, truly rare!

Documentary on the U.S.’s Sextet on African-American Candidates for Canonization Already Available On Line ♥

David Michael Warren, president of Stella Maris Films, notified the Guild on Feb. 11 that “A Place at the Table: African Americans on the Path to Sainthood,” the 115-minute documentary on the six men and women being considered for canonization, which he directed, is finished and available for instant streaming at [blacksaintsmovie.com](https://vimeo.com/ondemand/blackssaintmovie), as well as on the Vimeo on Demand streaming platform (<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/blackssaintmovie>).

Warren did not indicate what the charge would be for the streaming, but did indicate that “the public can save 10% on their digital streaming purchases, if they use the coupon code Tolton10.”

The Guild has also learned that the Archdiocese of Denver’s Black Catholic Ministry Office hopes to make the film available free in the parishes and institutions of the archdiocese through the Augustine Institute’s “Formed” streaming platform. The Office has not yet published details of how to access the film by this route.

The 17-minute section of the film which pertains directly to Julia Greeley features interviews with Dustin Caldwell, Julia Greeley Guild vice president, and Fr. Blaine Burkey, as well as historical illustrations by Jaclyn Warren of Julia distributing literature to a fire



fighter and pulling her wagon through a Denver street.

Another Servant of God Who Fought Racism ♥

By Philip Kosloski

Fr. Stephen Eckert worked tirelessly for racial equality in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Born in Canada, Fr. Stephen Eckert joined the Capuchin order, was ordained in 1896 and sent to New York for his first assignment. While there he fell in love with African-Americans and felt a desire to minister to their spiritual needs, something that was rarely heard of in America at the time.

This calling was further cemented after a visit to the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Philadelphia, a religious community founded by St. Katharine Drexel, who served various African-American communities. He was convinced that God was calling him to this apostolate and wrote to his superior in 1903, “I humbly ask you for the privilege of devoting my life to missionary work alone, in conformity with God’s holy will. I must point out that since last year I have been thinking of going south to work with the Blacks; so if you think that this might redound to the greater glory of God, I would be glad to do so...”

His dream wasn’t fulfilled until he was appointed pastor at St. Benedict the Moor Parish in Milwaukee WI. The parish was in the heart of an African American community and his pastoral approach was entirely unique.

According to Egidio Picucci in an article for *L’Osservatore Romano*, “Within two months, Fr. Stephen made contact with 450 people, going from house to house, giving rise to waves of wonder for no one had ever ‘dared’ to do as much. It is needless to say that this wonder became trust, which is

why, when it became known that he was to open a school, he was immediately able to gather about 40 children, half of whom lived far away.”

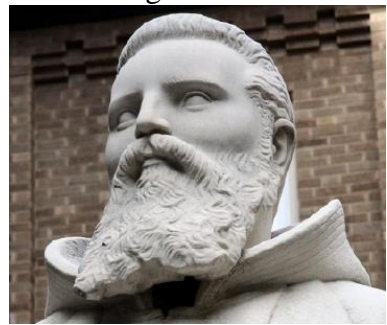
It is said that he was one of the first Catholic priests to dedicate all of his energy to the service of “the colored race” in the United States.

Furthermore, he would say “To do something for the Blacks we must first convert the Whites to their cause.” Eckert was active in the local community and fought for basic human rights and equality, something far ahead of his time.

Capuchin priest Fr. Mike Bertram summarizes on the St. Benedict the Moor parish website, “After [a] preaching trip, he contracted pneumonia, but refused hospitalization. He subsequently died on February 16, 1923 at the age of 53 and is buried on the grounds of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Milwaukee.

His simple tombstone reads, ‘The Apostle and Champion of the Colored Race.’ His great holiness and ministry resulted in the diocese beginning the canonization process on his behalf, and he was declared ‘Servant of God’ in 1952.”

His legacy endures to this day and the example of his fight for the dignity of the human person remains an inspiration.



Profession Register Found ♥

Julia’s obituary in the *Denver Catholic Register* mentioned that she was buried in the habit of the Third Order of St. Francis, which is known today as the Secular Franciscan Order.

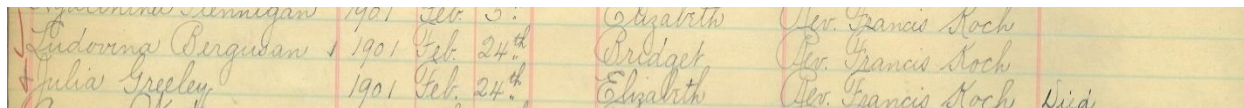
Later, Father Pacificus Kennedy revealed that he had learned from the “red bound Book of Professed Members” that Julia had taken the religious name Elizabeth and professed her promises into the hands of Fr. Francis Koch on Feb. 24, 1901.

When he was writing *In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart* in 2011-12, Fr. Blaine tried to find the red-bound book, and he has been trying to find the book ever since.

He went through records of three churches where the St. Elizabeth Fraternity had met over the years and talked to many members of the Fraternity, all to no avail.

Finally, while he was watching the Superbowl on Feb. 13, Clare DiBelle, the Fraternity’s recently-appointed archivist, called him to the door to show him with great excitement, not one, but two registers – one of people beginning the Order’s novitiate, the other the professions of the novices. The novitiate register was begun only in 1922, but the profession register started in 1882, and on p. 4 listed Julia, who made her profession on Feb. 24, 1901, in the company of Ludovina Bergeson, who chose the name Bridget.

Here is scan of the original document registering Julia’s profession:



Access to a large black register with a red spine revealed that about 80 men and women had already been professed in the Denver unit of the Third Order when Julia began her novitiate in early 1900, and that she was the 93rd to be professed. By the time Julia died on June 7, 1918, there had been 257 professed of the fraternity. In all likelihood some of these died by then and some had left the Order.

In the first edition of *In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart*, the presumption was

made that Julia probably knew the Servant of God Leo Heinrichs personally since as pastor of the church from Sept. 23, 1907, till his death on Feb. 26, 1908, he probably was the spiritual director of the fraternity. And the register on p. 6 does indeed show that Heinrich received the seven professions made during those five months.

A spot check of a number of the professions during Julia’s time indicated that she and most of them were professed on Sundays, which would seem to indicate that was when they generally had their meetings.

The friar listed as receiving the professions of Julia and most of those joining between 1887 and 1902 was Fr. Francis Koch, O.F.M., who is more widely known as one of the founding pillars of the Holy Name Province of the Franciscans (cf. <https://hnp.org>). Forced to leave Prussia by the Kulturkampf in 1875, Francis led a group of friars who settled in Patterson NJ. Two decades later they joined up with a group of Italian friars who earlier had begun St. Bonaventure’s College (now University) in western New York; and in 1901 the combined group became a province, with Francis as a member of its governing

council.

Meanwhile, Francis brought the first friars to Denver in 1887 and built St. Elizabeth’s Church in what is now on the Auraria campus of three institutions of higher education.

During his lifetime, Francis built dozens of other churches, most of them in northeast coastal states.

Julia Inspiration for Lent ♥

American Magazine's web site (<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2022/02/25/lent-temptations-humanity-gospel-242470>) carries a reflection on the readings for the First



Sunday of Lent by DePaul University's associate professor of Catholic studies, Jamie L. Waters, which ends with the following paragraph:

“When thinking about our Lenten journey, [Servant of God Julia Greeley](#) offers us important inspiration. Her life was filled with various obstacles, beginning with a notably abusive experience of slavery in Missouri. After obtaining freedom, Greeley relocated to Colorado and spent much of her life in service to her community. A Secular Franciscan, who was known as Denver's “Angel of Charity” or “Angel of Mercy,” Greeley devoted her life to helping families in need, delivering food, clothing and supplies. Tradition has it that she pulled a red wagon full of goods, and often made deliveries at night so as not to embarrass white families who might feel ashamed to receive help from a Black woman. Facing and overcoming many complex challenges, Greeley's tenacity, faith and service can inspire us to use this Lent for personal growth so that we can draw closer to God and one another.”

Website Update ♥

With the help of Fr. Joseph Elder, the Guild has recently updated the **Chronology** of Julia's life on the ABOUT JULIA page of its juliagreeley.com website, as well a similar chronology on THE CAUSE page. The site also has posted all 33 issues of **Julia's Lil' Red Wagon**.

Chronology of the Cause ♥

These are important events involved in Julia's Cause for canonization:

- Aug. 4, 2016 – The Archbishop hired Dr. Waldery Hilgeman, JUD, 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 unanimously endorsed Archbishop Aquila's decision to open the Cause.
- Dec. 18, 2016 – Archbishop Aquila officially opened the Archdiocesan Phase of the Cause at Immaculate Conception Cathedral Basilica during the 8:30 Mass.
- Archdiocesan Chancellor David Uebbing is the local Vice Postulator of the Cause; Fr. Giovanni Capucci, the Archbishop's Delegate; and Fr. Vincent Phung, the Promoter of Justice.
- May 26-31, 2017 – Julia Greeley's mortal remains were exhumed at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Wheat Ridge, Colo., by team led by Dr. Christine Pink, PhD, Metro State University. All of Julia's bones were recovered (including an extra rib). Dr. Pink determined Julia's height to have been five feet, one inch, and said that her spine, legs, and hands were covered with arthritis.
- June 7, 2017 – The Servant of God's bones were transferred to the

Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, where they were received by Auxiliary Bishop Jorge Rodriguez in a solemn ceremony. After the creation of third-class relics, the bones were placed in a redheart-wood funerary chest, which was permanently placed in the northwest corner of the transept, where the faithful may now privately reverence Julia's bones and invoke her intercession.

- May 30, 2018 – Julia's remains and the red funerary chest were placed in a new Carrera marble sarcophagus.
- Aug. 10, 2018 – The Archdiocesan Phase of the Cause was completed and 11,750 pages of data were sealed for delivery to Rome.
- Sept. 14, 2018 – The Acta of the Archdiocesan Phase were delivered to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.
- January 2021 — The Congregation certified that the Archdiocesan Phase was executed correctly, thus allowing the opening of the Apostolic (Roman) Phase of the Cause.
- Nov. 12, 2021 – Cristiana Marinelli of Rome was hired to draft the Official *Positio* for the Cause.

A Plant Grows in Brooklyn ♥

On Feb. 21, 2016, Julia's "little white angel"'s niece, Virginia Haddad, flew 900 miles from southern California to join a local bus pilgrimage to Julia's grave and other associated sites. Returning home, she continued spreading the word about Julia.

Three years later, Anne Sieben, a consecrated pilgrim, begged her way on foot on a Julia Greeley Lenten pilgrimage which took her along the 1,300 miles from St. Louis and Hannibal in Missouri to Cheyenne

and Laramie in Wyoming to the tomb of Julia in the Denver Cathedral Basilica. Along the way she spread the word about Julia to all she met.

Now, another three years later, word about Julia is being planted further afar. Guild member Msgr. Ray Roden has planted the word about Julia in the midst of his fellow priests around Brooklyn NY, and he and six African-American parish priests are excitedly planning to make a 1,650 mile pilgrimage to Julia's tomb in mid-July. Please accompany them with your prayers.

Julia Presentations ♥

- ♥ "Empowered by Place: Julia Greeley's Denver," Historic Denver, Virtual Conversation, Feb. 9, 2022, 7:30-8:30 pm, Fr. Blaine presented a slide show, 38 people attended.
- ♥ "Empowered by Place: Julia Greeley's Denver," in person Walking Tour, Historic Denver, Feb. 12, 2022, 3:30-4:30 pm, led by Alison Salutz, 20 were signed up, but only two attended, due to snow storm the previous evening.
- ♥ Samaritan House staff & volunteers, Denver, Feb. 23, 2022, Fr. Blaine assisted by Essy Goffinett & Kate Springs, slide show, ca 30 attended.
- ♥ Regis Jesuit High School, Aurora, Mar. 8, 2022, Mary Leisring, assisted by Essy Goffinett, ca 50 attended.
- ♥ St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Denver, Apr. 6, Kate Springs, Essy Goffinett & Minnie Cassell.
- ♥ 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.

Julia's Canoe Masses ♥



Intentions placed in Julia's Canoe, either by email or other forms of submission, are listed in a digital file constantly updated. In conjunction with the Guild, the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception celebrates monthly Masses for all in Julia's Canoe.

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:

Fri., April 1, 12:10 p.m.
Fri., May 6, 5:30 p.m.
Fri., June 3, 5:30 p.m.
Fri., July 1, 5:30 p.m.
Fri., August 5, 5:30 p.m.
Fri., September 2, 5:30 p.m.
Fri., October 7, 5:30 p.m.
Fri., November 4, 5:30 p.m.
Fri., December 2, 5:30 p.m.

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

New Edition Available in Various Venues ♥

The new edition of *In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart* sells for \$22.00 and it 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.



A Guild Fundraiser ♥

A shirt featuring Julia and her five fellow candidates for canonization (shown on the next page) is now available at <https://juliagreeleyguild.homesteadcloud.com>



Special for Rockies Fans ♥

The Guild will no longer be offering discounted Rockies tickets, BUT our Guild members (and others), if we are blessed to have a 2022 baseball season, can continue to



obtain discounted tickets through the auspices of A New Dawn – Black Lives Have Not Always Mattered. For more details, contact Mary Leisring at 720-352-4995.

Official Guild Statistics ♥

Friends of Julia
On our mailing lists – 3-9-2022

1,215

which includes

Guild Members
Dues paying –3-9-2022

285

Welcome to Our Meetings ♥

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 a.m. MT. The meetings in 2022 will be on Mar 17, Apr 21, May 19, Jun 16, Jul 21, Aug 18, Sep 15, Oct 20, Nov 17, and Dec. 15. 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, Jefferson City MO, and Brooklyn NY join the Colorado faithful.

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 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 Guild Friends.

Geraldine Magnie
Elaine Massie
Hanna Nevin
Ginger Perkins
Wilmetta Ann Roth
Fr. Marcus Medrano
Joseph Staab
Patricia Lucille Deleon
Janie Smith
Charles Leisring
Fr. Regis Scanlon, O.F.M.Cap.

Our Officers ♥

Mary Leisring, President & Treasurer
Dustin Caldwell, Vice President

Kevin Knight, Secretary
Fr. Sam Morehead, Pastor
Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., Consultant

Other Guild Officers ♥

Frankie Rachell-Bruce, phone secretary
Sharon Doerflinger, membership secretary
Office vacant, recording secretary
Minnie Cassell, associate secretary
Essy Goffinett, associate secretary
Ria de Dios, associate secretary

Guild Contacts ♥

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juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com
(303) 558-6685
www.juliagreeley.org

Wagoneers ♥

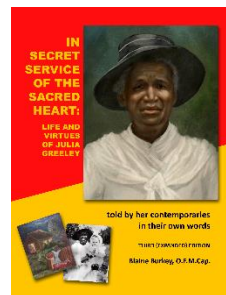
Fr. Blaine Burkey, pro tem editor; Mary
Leisring, president & circulation mgr.



Greeley Guild Galleria

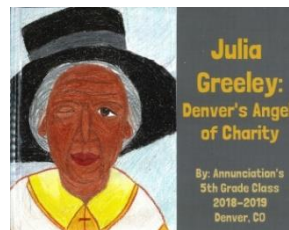
The Guild has a number of items available for purchase at its office at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, 1525 N. Logan St., Denver CO 80203-1913. A check made out to "Cathedral Basilica" in the amount of the price of the item(s) wanted and the name and address, phone number, and email address of the purchaser should be accompanied by the item number 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

