



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

Fortieth Issue 6-13-2023
Sacred Heart Month Issue

Save the Date

Her 143rd Spiritual Birthday ♥

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the Mass celebrating Julia's spiritual birthday, the day she was baptized at Sacred Heart Church -- June 26, 1880.

Father Eric Zegeer, pastor of Julia's Church, will be main celebrant and homilist for the 143rd anniversary of Julia's Baptism, at 7 p.m. **on June 26 at Sacred Heart Church.** Reception following in the Church basement.

Card. Stafford on Julia ♥

Card. J. Francis Stafford wrote a blurb for the back of Fr. Blaine's book in 2012. *Lil' Red Wagon* later asked him for further reflections on Julia, but he was not at the time able to do so.

We now learn that when *Rocky Mountain News* reporter Jean Torkelson, new executive director at Julia Greeley Home, interviewed him in Rome at the time of his elevation in 1998 -- 14 years before Burkey's book -- he stopped in mid-sentence to ask her why she wasn't writing a story instead on Julia Greeley.

Torkelson was puzzled; as, at that time, she had never heard of Greeley. Recently she turned the question back to Stafford, asking why he had asked the question, so now we have further thoughts from His Eminence on the Servant of God, thanks to the *Julia Greeley Home News*.

"When I came to Colorado in 1986, I came curious for a new experience - an experience of new ideas, new imaginations, new ways of looking at my home. And when I came across the story of



Julia Greeley I thought, 'What a wonderful discovery!' I was stunned by her, by this beautiful woman. I grew up in Baltimore and had just come from Tennessee. I never had the experience of learning about a slave, born into American slavery, who emerged in 1880 as a woman of great holiness. How did this happen? Of course, there is no explanation; it's a great mystery, conversion in Christ. It's God's grace.

"Nevertheless, I wondered: What had happened to her? What was her life experience? Her birth was somewhere between 1833 and 1848 (no one knows exactly when), but it was a 15-year span. I began wondering about birthdays. Birthdays are a big event for us. It was a big event for

me. I remember being five years of age and my parents celebrating my birthday with family and friends. Why didn't Julia have those experiences? How did she come from that kind of unknowing, to 1880 and her baptism in Christ? And from there to Mass every day, and the reception of the Holy Eucharist, and this profound devotion to Christ and the poor, which is unique?

"I regarded Julia's life as an even greater surprise than another experience I found while hiking in the mountains of Colorado: It was the Columbine flower, which I knew nothing about. The name comes from Latin, the Holy Spirit is the symbol, and the imagery of a "dove" goes back to the Renaissance. In my mind, I called Julia Greeley "The Uncommon Columbine of Colorado." This slave woman, hit by a whip and blinded in her right eye at three years of age, not knowing her birthday, or when she was born, yet known for the great holiness of her life! I was filled with wonder, the wonder of God working through her.

"It's interesting, in Father Blaine Burkey's book about Julia (*"In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart"*) we read about the support of the people of Denver for Julia. Many were upper-class people (she was hired as a housekeeper, cook, and child's caregiver by Julia Gilpin, the wife of William Gilpin, the territorial governor of Colorado), and invariably, many knew her as a saintly woman. But how did she sustain herself psychologically in this precarious world, where she had no skills outside of cooking, cleaning, and caring for children? Well, we know she was a joyful woman. My sense is that she created joy because she understood that the greatest dignity we have as human beings is to praise God.

"It would be interesting to ask every woman who comes to you at the Julia Greeley Home: "Would you be willing to get up every morning and say, 'Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your

praise'"? At first, they will say - 'What's *that* about?' But the greatest dignity of woman and man comes from the ability to praise God. Through the Holy Spirit, Julia came to understand that, because God was everywhere in her life. Like Julia, the women you serve can experience God working in their lives. He is the source of all human dignity. So, let the women whom you serve know that God is suffering with them. Let them know they are made in the image and likeness of their Creator and Redeemer. Let everyone shout in the morning the words of the 50th Psalm, "Oh Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise." And I will certainly be praying for them!"

Bishop Rodriguez Leads Guild and Others in Festive 105th Anniversary Mass ♥

Nearly a hundred folks, about a third of them Guild members and friends, many wearing Sacred-Heart red clothing and stoles emblazoned with the name of Julia Greeley, joined Bishop Jorge Rodriguez in honoring the Servant of God on June 7, the 105th anniversary of her going heavenward.

Noting that we are all called to be saints, Bishop Rodriguez said Julia Greeley showed us how to answer that universal call through her difficult and painful life. Wondering just how she prayed, he asked her to pray for us even as we ask the Lord to give us the grace



to one day see Julia raised to the altar as a canonized saint.

We hope to be able to have the entire sermon in His Excellency's own words in the next issue of the *Wagon*.



Guild President Mary Leisring proclaims the first reading for Julia's 105th anniversary Mass. Vested ministers: Fr. Shijan Antony, Fr. John James Arcidiacono, Dcn. Clarence McDavid, Bp. Jorge Rodriguez, Dcn Joseph Nowak, Fr. Blaine Burkey



2023 Guild Visit to Julia: Fr. Shijan Antony, Kateri Williams, Charlotte McKinney, Debbie Nowak, Minnie Cassell, Ria de Dios, Amy Wagner, Sr. Marion Weinzapfel, Fr. Blaine Burkey, Mary Leisring, Bishop Jorge Rodriguez, Elsie Dixon, Delmy Stephens & Josey Hall.
Photos by Jean Torkelson & Sandra Miley.

**Déjà
vu?**

**No,
It's
All
New!**



You may think you've seen a version of this image before, but it is not what you may think it is. It does not represent Julia Greeley and her 20th century "little white angel," Marjorie Ann Urquhart.

It's meant to be Julia Greeley and her new little angel, Julia Maria Caldwell, whose mother credits Julia Greeley for helping in a 21st century pregnancy and birth. Drawn by Sr. Maria de Lourdes Arbesú Barahona, M.S.C.B., assistant principal at Nativity of Our Lord School in Broomfield CO, the

drawing appeared on Julia Caldwell's baptismal memorial card, Mar. 18, 2023.

Julia Greeley Home Names New Executive Director ♥

The *Julia Greeley Home News* for May announced the appointment of Jean Torkelson as executive director of Julia



Greeley Home Inc. Jean has served JGH as the daily administrator and assistant to the corporations's board since 2015.

Fr. Christopher Popravak, O.F.M.Cap., continues to serve as corporation president, a position he assumed since the death in 2021 of founder and former president, Fr. Regis Scanlon, O.F.M.Cap.



Other members of the JGH board are Celeste Thomas, chair; Anna Marie Yanez, JGH treasurer and long-time bookkeeper; Fr. William Kraus, O.F.M.Cap.; businessman Kevin Hutchinson; and noted Catholic author and speaker on women's issues, Mary Beth Bonacci.

The Home will soon celebrate the 10th anniversary of its opening on Aug. 15, 2013. One of its first clients was Sylvia, who lost her home and financial stability after a family crisis. Sylvia, a former manager in the telecommunications industry, eloquently expressed her love for the Home: "Thank you, Julia Greeley, you were a light for me when I could not see the way." She planned to become our first volunteer until her untimely death from a stroke in 2015. But her life story expresses perfectly the mission

of JGH: To assist homeless single in recovering their sacred dignity as women.

About 80 women have graduated from JGH's programs, and 55% have succeeded in finding their own path to self sufficiency, whether through finding a good job, stable housing, and/or reconciliation with family.

Since August of 2015, JGH has shared quarters in suburban Denver with Shannon's Hope, founded in 1982 by Leslie Pottebaum to help pregnant women rebuild their self-confidence and lead a safe and stable independent lifestyle.

Leslie directs the daily operation of both programs, assisted by three part time employees, two of whom are graduates of the Julia Greeley Home.

Favor Acknowledged ♥

I am currently 18 years old and I have suffered from anxiety attacks since I was 12, which ends up preventing me from carrying out my daily activities.

A few years ago, I increased my faith and devotion, sought to receive the sacraments, and walked down the aisle as an acolyte in the church where I serve today. However, anxiety attacks have not left my life.

Through reading a page about the life of Servant of God Julia Greeley, I began my devotional relationship with this saint, reading about her story, the sanctity of her life and her mission. The appreciation I felt for this saint who fought for the faith, for holy charity and always maintained her calm and trust! God led me to believe in her true sanctity and intercession.

In a current bout of anxiety at work, I've had the onset of gastritis, which makes me throw up and feel dizzy. In this time of crisis, where bad thoughts take over my mind, I remembered the Servant of God Julia Greeley and prayed for her intercession, keeping in mind the image of the saint blessing my life. I immediately felt a great comfort, to which I attribute the intercession

of the Servant of God. The anxiety crisis ended and since that day nervous gastritis has not affected me anymore.

I trust in the sanctity of Servant of God Julia Greeley and pray for her prompt canonization and prayer guild. It would be a great achievement for me to have a relic of my intercessor Servant of God.

--Arthur F de O., Goiania, Goias, Brazil

Other Presentations ♥

♥ A magnificent four-page article on Julia Greeley by Sheryl Tirol, with photos by Bear Gutierrez, appears in the summer issue of *Regis Magazine*. Among other things, it tells of the involvement in the Denver phase of Julia's Cause of Dr. Barbara Wilcots PhD, Regis University vice-president for student affairs, as well as the likelihood that Julia went through Regis' campus on her pedestrian travel between her boarding house on Walnut St. and her work place on Lowell Blvd.

♥ Aaron Lambert posted on the Apr. 24 on-line version of the *Denver Catholic* his wonderful lengthy interview with Maura Roan McKeegan and Lisa Capaldi about the writing of their children's book, *Julia Greeley: Secret Angel to the poor*.

♥ Jay Nies' article on the recently discovered vintage painting at Denver's Sacred Heart Church appeared online in *Catholic Missourian* for June 7, 2023:

<http://catholicmissourianonline.com/stories/servant-of-god-julia-greeley-possibly-her-first-sight-of-the-sacred-heart,4663>

♥ *Take Five for Faith*, a daily online renewal message for busy Catholics, marked June 7 with a 150-word message on Julia Greeley entitled a "Transcending Prejudice in Service to God."

♥ *Give Us This Day*, daily missalette from Liturgical Press, also recently carried four paragraphs entitled "Blessed Among

Us: July 7 – Servant of God Julia Greeley – Third Order Franciscan (d. 1918)."



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 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., July 7, 5:30 p.m.

Fri., Aug. 4, 5:30 p.m.

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

Guild Contacts ♥

Julia Greeley Guild

c/o Cathedral Basilica

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Welcome to Our Meetings ♥

All Guild Members and other Friends of Julia are welcome at our planning meetings. We meet by ZOOM every Third Thursday of the month at

10:30 a.m. MT. The coming meetings in 2023 will be on June 15, Sept. 21, Oct.19. 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.

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.

Our Officers ♥

Mary Leisring, President & Treasurer
Dustin Caldwell, Vice President
Kevin Knight, Secretary
Fr. Sam Morehead, Pastor
Fr. John James Arcidiacono, C.J.S., Guild Liaison to the Cathedral Staff
Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., Consultant

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

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.



Greeley Guild Galleria

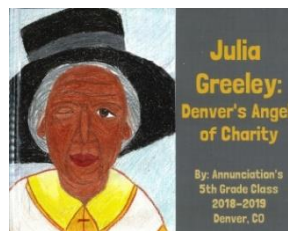
The Guild has a number of items available for purchase at its office at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, 1525 N. Logan St., Denver CO 80203-1913. A check made out to "Cathedral Basilica" in the amount of the price of the item(s) wanted and the name and address, phone number, and email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

