



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

Forty-third Issue 3-31-2024
Easter Edition

Save the Dates!!!

♥ June 7

106th Anniversary of Julia's Death
Mass at the Cathedral 5:30 p.m.
Celebrant to be announced
Dcn. Clarence McDavid, homilist

♥ June 26

144th Anniversary of Julia's Baptism
(her spiritual birthday)
Mass at Sacred Heart Church, 7 p.m.
Celebrant to be announced

Bus Pilgrimage Side-Swiped; Maybe Rescheduled Later ♥

The Lenten Bus Pilgrimage Fr. Blaine was to have led through Julialand on Mar. 23 was put on hold, due to his sustaining a severely sprained right shoulder in early January, which would have made tackling the logistics of a bus pilgrimage too daunting.

After a long wait for an MRI, he is now engaged in physical therapy, hoping eventually to consider rescheduling the pilgrimage.

Only time will tell.

Mary Frances O'Sullivan, Honorary Lifetime Member, Buried from Cathedral ♥

When Mary Frances O'Sullivan died at Windsor Gardens in Denver on Jan. 14, 2024, her gravesite in Mt. Olivet – not far from Julia's Greeley's grave – had already borne her gravestone for at least 13 years.

She had planned to be buried there without any ceremony, probably because her family all lived in Ireland.

Fortunately, the staff at Mt. Olivet decided to add a funeral Mass, livestreamed so that her family in Ireland and other interested parties might take part.

The Mass was originally intended to take place at the mortuary's chapel at Mt. Olivet.

However, once it became clear that O'Sullivan's longstanding devotion to Julia Greeley was of an extraordinary character,

the Mass was moved to the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, where the body of her friend, the Servant of



God, awaits its final resurrection.

As Fr. Blaine Burkey told *The Denver Catholic*, Mary Frances' contribution to Julia's cause for canonization was "an indispensably important" one.

Her obtaining the research papers of Fr. Pacificus Kennedy, O.F.M., in 1994, shortly before the latter's death, was her most important assistance.

Kennedy had interviewed numerous folks who knew Julia or knew about her, and he had the only known photo of her.

Fr. Blaine says if Mary Frances had not obtained those papers and seen that they were preserved, he would never have started putting together the book, *In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart, the Life and Virtues of Julia Greeley*, which is now widely believed helped enable the Church to open Julia's cause.

The Julia Greeley Guild recognized O'Sullivan's precious involvement in 2017 by awarding her an honorary life membership in the Guild with a plaque presented at Julia's tomb on the occasion of her reinterment in the Cathedral.



Mary Frances was born in Ireland on Jan. 1, 1942, the eldest of the ten children of Nora and Frank O'Sullivan. She left Ireland in 1959, and after periods in London and Chicago, she came to Denver in 1970. She never returned home, but called her mother every day until the latter's death in 2019.

May, as the family called her, was present at Masses celebrated at Julia's grave already in the early 1990s.

Soon after that she encouraged the ladies' auxiliary of the Knights of St. Peter Claver at Cure d'Ars Church to begin offering scholarships in Julia's honor.

She wrote an article for the *Denver Catholic Register* which prompted informative letters to the editor about Julia. She also gave impressive enlargements of Julia's photo to Sacred Heart and Curé d'Ars churches.

When Donna Auguste, Richard and Kathy Holmes and others began Julia Greeley Academy in 2012, Mary Frances delighted in spending time with the children at the school.

Fr. Sam Morehead, cathedral rector, presided at the Mass on Jan. 31, and gave a beautiful sermon on family relationships, a large portion of which brought Julia into Mary Frances' family.

In attendance were Guild president Mary Leising, who served as lector; Kate Springs, Richard and Kathy Holmes, Fr. Tom McCormick, and about a 20 other people, including six young ladies from Sacred Heart High School, who acted as pallbearers.

The livestreaming is accessible at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsHG2GgUP8k>

Wagon Missed in 2022 ♥

A recent surfride through the Internet turned up two previously unseen YouTubes devoted to Denver's Angel of Mercy. Both were posted in 2022.

The One mentioned only because it is so badly constructed, is the work of Lisa Cabrera. It begins agreeing that Julia Greeley was a saintly person, but then criticizes the Catholic Church for considering the possibility of canonizing her, saying it is seeking to profit

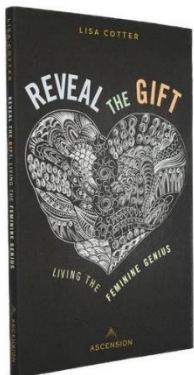
financially from her holiness instead of offering monetary reparation for her enslavement. The very title of the video clearly revealed its shallow research. After noting the verifiable fact that the Jesuits in 18th century Maryland owned slaves, it proclaimed, “The Catholic Church May Canonize One of Their Slaves.”

Julia Greeley grew up on a slave farm, it’s true. But it was in 19th century Missouri, and she was owned by a Baptist deacon. Once freed, she joined and fully supported the Catholic Church on her own volition, and the Church now honors the wonders God has worked through her.

[Youtube.com/watch?v=HKERGPYJjYU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKERGPYJjYU)

The Other written and presented by Lisa Cotter is a thoroughly accurate nine-minute discussion of “The Radical Generosity of Julia Greeley,” posted on June 9, 2022, as an introduction to Mrs. Cotter’s 176-page book, *Reveal the Gift: Living the Feminine Genius*, which had just been published by Ascension Press. By now, it has sold over 10,000 copies.

Julia Greeley is but one of ten chapters on ten heroic women Cotter chose to illustrate



ten traits that women are called to exhibit in living the feminine genius.

She uncovers a transformational vision of women’s purpose, meaning, and gifts, which might not be exactly what one expects.

[Youtube.com/watch?v=CPy_J8FZB5U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPy_J8FZB5U)

The book costs \$19.95. 1-800-376-0520
support@ascensionpress.com

Cotter’s Work Calls to Mind ENDOW’s Presence in Early Guild History ♥

Word of Cotter’s new book, and her speaking engagements about the Feminine Genius hit a nostalgia button for *Julia’s ‘Lil Red Wagon*, since entwined in the Guild’s own beginnings in 2011 was an organization called ENDOW (an acronym for Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women).

ENDOW preexisted the Guild by eight years, but their roots were curiously entangled.

In 1997, Dr. Michael Woodward became director of the library at St. John Vianney Seminary and soon noticed that Julia Greeley’s box in the archdiocesan archives, then housed in the library, was one of its most accessed collections.

This led him to write a paper on Julia and four other famous Colorado Catholic women, which in 2002 or 2003, he presented in a seminary faculty colloquium.

Philosophy professor Sr. Prudence Allen, who published three huge tomes on the history of the dignity of women, was present at the colloquium, and just about that time she became involved in the founding of ENDOW.

In the Spring of 2005, she and her community, the Religious Sisters of Mercy, were on a tour of Mt. Allen Cemetery. At Julia’s grave, Sister prayed interiorly to Julia for guidance to ENDOW, which was already unfolding its mission in Denver. She interiorly heard the words, “Take me with you on pilgrimage,” and responded, “Why should you go on pilgrimage? You are already in heaven.” The words were repeated, “Take me with you on pilgrimage.”

Later that year the ENDOW board made a pilgrimage to Siena and Rome to study the *Dialogues* of St. Catherine of Siena and seek

the Spirit's guidance for what direction it should take.

In the hotel attached to St. Catherine's home, Sister shared the story of Julia with the board.

Eight months later, the *Denver Catholic Register* revealed that ENDOW had named Julia Greeley its model in recognizing the "Genius of Women," and would award a Julia Greeley Award in her honor.

This became an annual event, honoring a stellar array of extraordinary Catholic women exemplifying the feminine genius.

On Apr. 5, 2011, a new inspiration entered Julia's story. At an Archbishop's Lecture devoted to Bishop Machebeuf, the question arose, had he ever been considered for canonization? Hearing a "No," Sr. Prudence Allen arose and said there was someone in Denver who definitely should be canonized, namely Julia Greeley.

After the meeting, Fr. Blaine, who had also been researching Julia in the archives, turned to Sister and said, "You're right, Sister, but that will never happen until somebody puts together a more substantial account of Julia's life."

He continued his own research, frequently sharing what he found with his confrere, Fr. Gene Emrisek, O.F.M.Cap., pastor at the time of Sacred Heart Church; and Father set to work calling together representatives of many different groups who had a special interest in Julia.

When they first met and formed the Julia Greeley Guild on Aug. 1, 2011, Terry Polakovic, president and co-foundress of ENDOW was at the table.

She appointed Eileen Love as her representative at future meetings, and helped provide some of the funds needed to publish *In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart*.

Meanwhile, Sr. Prudence spent countless hours tediously proofreading various drafts of the book.

It was published on Mar. 28, 2012, and two-weeks later the first book signing was held at ENDOW's annual Gala, where the ninth Julia Greeley award was given to Martha Reichert.

Martha succeeded Terry as president of ENDOW and in September of 2016, presented a paper on Julia Greeley at "Witnesses of Mercy in the Americas," a Roman symposium sponsored by the Pontifical Commission for America and the Denver Archdiocese.

Two months later, Archbishop Aquila decided to open Julia's cause, and somewhere in the midst of the excitement that followed, the Guild and ENDOW unconsciously lost track of one another.

Primed by word of Lisa Cotter's various efforts on behalf of the feminine genius, *Julia's 'Lil Red Wagon* decided to get back in touch with ENDOW.

There was a telephone number available, but no one ever answered it. A voice mail prompt was hopelessly garbled, and messages left produced no response. Efforts to reach the Guild's previous contacts also failed. And sadly, we learned that Eileen Love had died last year.

But we finally got through, and learned that ENDOW is still going at full steam, with over 1,000 study groups in over 100 different dioceses in 30 countries.

It celebrated its 20th Anniversary last April with a Gala at which Sr. Mercy Marie of the Sisters of Life was given the eleventh Julia Greeley Award.

And as its current CEO, Annette Bergeon, told *Wagon*, "Julia Greeley is definitely the spiritual mother of ENDOW.

ENDOW can be reached at 720-382-5242 and endowgroups.org.

Sr. Mercy Marie, S.V. ♥



ENDOW's eleventh Julia Greeley Award winner served as its Director of Program Growth for many years as Kate Sweeney. She passionately shared with women and girls

about the joy and freedom discovered in living from their God-given dignity. While co-hosting an Endow Women's Conference on the east coast, she met the Sisters of Life, whom she joined in 2014.

After she professed her first vows, Sister helped open the Sisters of Life mission in Philadelphia, Pa., to evangelize and support women who find themselves in a crisis pregnancy. From the Fall of 2018 to 2023, she participated at St. Paul the Apostle Convent in Yonkers, N.Y. in a mission of inviting women to step into the mercy of Jesus Christ after an abortion. Since then she has participated in the retreat work of Villa Maria Guadalupe in Stamford CT.

Julia's Eucharistic Life ♥

To help pave the way to the July 17-23 National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, the USCCB's Eucharistic Revival committee is presenting on line "American Eucharistic Witness," a series of monthly essays, woodcut prints by American artist Connor Miller, and other catechetical tools concerning the Eucharistic devotion of several holy men and women. February's essay on Julia Greeley, prepared by Fr. Blaine Burkey, is reposted here for posterity's sake:

Servant of God Julia Greeley's Early Years

The Servant of God Julia Greeley was born into slavery on the farm of Samuel Brice Caldwell, 12 miles west of Hannibal, Missouri. A deacon in the Baptist ecclesial

community, Caldwell helped build a small Baptist chapel on his property. There is no information available, however, as to what connection Julia, as a slave, might have had with that ecclesial community.

The sole memory we have of Julia's life at Caldwell's farm is her shattered right eye which continued to ooze fluids throughout her life, a violent reminder of the slave master's whip that blinded her as a young girl. She was ill one day, and her mother stayed back from the field to tend to her. The slave master came after the mother with a whip, and Julia's eye became collateral damage.

After her emancipation, Julia performed domestic services for the Robinson family in St. Louis, the mother and father of whom are buried in the Catholic cemetery in St. Louis; but again, there is no information available as to what connection, if any, Julia might have had with religion.

Julia moved to Denver in mid-winter 1878 to work for the family of Mrs. Robinson's sister, Julia Gilpin. We know she developed a close friendship with Mrs. Gilpin, a devout Catholic credited by Julia herself as having "given me my faith."



Julia Greeley Woodcut Print by Connor Miller

Julia's Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Unaware if she had ever been baptized, she received the Sacrament conditionally on June 26, 1880, at Sacred Heart parish in Denver. From then on, she was thoroughly involved in the mission of the Church and became known to the Jesuits who ministered to her as “the most zealous apostle of the Sacred Heart they have ever known.”

Julia died in 1918, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, a First Friday that year. Fr. Charles McDonnell, S.J., said at her funeral that she was charitable to an astonishing degree and had a devotion to the Sacred Heart, the Blessed Virgin, and the Blessed Sacrament that was marvelous. “It was not sentimentality,” he added, “but real piety.”

It would be nice if Julia herself could have told us more about these devotions, but the tyranny of slavery had robbed her not only of freedom of movement and other activity as a youth but also of the chance for formal education, rendering her illiterate.

Those who knew her, however, preserved the memory of her devotion by speaking about her actions. Seven centuries earlier, St. Anthony of Padua observed in a sermon, “Actions speak louder than words.”

Julia's Works of Mercy and Charity

Much of what her acquaintances shared about her activities spoke of her practice of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. She earned her living as a domestic servant, and whatever was left after providing for her own needs, she shared with Denver's neglected poor in the form of food, clothing, fuel, and anything else they needed. To avoid embarrassing the recipients of her charity, she made her deliveries mostly at night through dark back alleys. One editor called her a “one-woman Vincent de Paul Society.”

Julia also devoted much of her time each month spreading the literature of the Apostleship of Prayer and the Sacred Heart League all over Denver. Since she was illiterate, someone must have informed her each month of the general content of the leaflets she recommended to others. It follows from this that she must have consecrated her daily activity to the apostleship's intentions. This surely was one of the secrets of her own spirituality: to place all her day's activities into the secret service of the Sacred Heart.

Fewer witnesses spoke explicitly of Julia's Eucharistic devotion, but in fact, all these devotions were but different facets of one another. Julia's devotion to the Sacred Heart was toward the same love of Jesus that one experiences in Jesus' Body truly present in the Eucharist. This love of Christ empowered and accompanied her in all her charitable efforts to serve Jesus whom she encountered in the poor and forgotten.

Julia's Devotion to the Eucharist

Fr. McDonnell said Julia had been a daily Communicant practically ever since her conversion, thus revealing the strength of her devotion to her Eucharistic Lord. The Apostleship of Prayer, of which she was a parish promotor, asked its members to “receive Our Lord in Holy Communion once a week, or once a month... in reparation for the sins of ingratitude and irreverence committed against our Lord, particularly in the Eucharist.” Julia, however, sought to receive him every day.

It is well documented that Julia, even in her poverty, rented a small two-seat pew just in front of the far left of the Communion rail. This surely suggests she wanted to be as close as possible to where her Eucharist Lord was resting.

Several other people recorded that Julia made a special effort to attend their First Communions which they had received in

parishes far removed from Sacred Heart Church. She did so on foot, with considerable pain. Recent forensic examination found her bones covered with the marks of arthritis.

One woman, later a Carmelite nun, said Julia followed the city's schedule of Forty Hours Devotions and "walked to every parish, participating in the Masses, litanies, benedictions, and worshipping for hours at the Court-Throne of Incarnate Love." She "knelt motionless with perfect posture, intently absorbed in the adorable Eucharist."

One of these churches was ten miles away from where Julia was working at the time, and for three days she arrived early with flowers for the altar of Exposition "remaining until the closing cadence, then disappearing into the darkness, with a brisk step."

Editor's note:

Two further paragraphs did not make it to the web, probably because of space limitations. We add them here in the interest of completeness.

Altar Society ladies everywhere were acquainted with Julia because of her luxurious donation of flowers which she brought from her employers on the other side of town.

Julia herself did say something revealing she believed Jesus was present in the Eucharist, offering Himself as food that sustained her in all she was doing: A week after her death, the diocesan newspaper said, "She never ate any breakfast, except when she was going to do heavy work and it was absolutely necessary to have sustenance. This fast was a religious act, and was not caused by her poverty, for her friends would gladly have given her this meal. She was asked various times by Father McDonnell, whether she had eaten breakfast and replied, 'My Communion is my breakfast'."

A Favor Received ♥

In February of 2022, my 4-year-old grandchild Julia (aka JuJu) got very ill. My daughter's family had just come off of a bout of COVID so the thought was that JuJu's illness was related. Her fever kept getting worse and daily would reach 105. My daughter took her to the doctor who ran blood work and discovered that her white blood cell count was twice what it should have been. Because of our family's past experience with leukemia with another granddaughter, we were all thinking the worst.

JuJu was taken to the ER at Mott Children's Hospital and admitted on Wednesday. The good news was that it was NOT cancer. The bad news was that JuJu was fighting an E-Coli infection in her kidney. They immediately gave her IV antibiotics and liquids. After several days, she was not getting any better with up and down fevers and only minor improvement in her blood work. On Sunday they changed the antibiotic and were planning to do an ultrasound the next day to determine whether the infection had spread to her heart. The doctors were really perplexed. In the meantime, everyone was praying for sweet JuJu.

JuJu, whose wonderful father, Aaron Wilkerson, is African American, was named after a former slave whose cause for sainthood was recently initiated. She is known in Denver Colorado as "The Angel of Charity". She was named a Servant of God right around the time of JuJu's birth. One of the ladies in our Chaplet prayer group took the initiative to contact the Julia Greeley Guild in Denver in an email to ask for prayers for our little JuJu. That was on Friday or Saturday. JuJu was slipping on Sunday night. Her fever returned and we were all discouraged.

Monday morning came and JuJu's fever was GONE! Her bloodwork began to show

marked improvement. The doctors attributed the improvement to the change in antibiotic. But I know better. I believe that the intercession of Servant of God Julia Greeley was the difference. I don't expect this to be considered a miracle for her cause; but to our family, it was a miracle nonetheless! Thank you for your prayers and for Julia Greeley's intercession for our dear JuJu!

Deacon Regis Buckley
Maria Goretti Parish
Dearborn Heights MI



Carondelet Celebration ♥

Sr. Marion Weinzapfel and several other Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and their associates presented "Resilience Unveiled: Celebrating Faith, Courage and Sacrifice of Black Catholics" at their St. Louis mother-house on Feb. 11. It paid special attention to Julia Greeley, Augustus Tolton, and Thea Bowman, and enshrined first-class relics of two Ugandan catechists, Blesseds Daudi Okello and Jildo Irwa, who were martyred near the Sisters' present mission in Gulu, Uganda, in 1918 – the year that Julia died.



Associate Frankie Rachell-Bruce provided a script on Julia Greeley, which Sr. Marion read at the event. About 75 Sisters and Associates participated. You can view the 76 minute program at <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/133357153>.

Other Presentations ♥

♥ Guild Ambassador Maria "Essy" Goffinett was unexpectedly at the Cathedral Basilica Oct.28 when about 20 pilgrims from Denver's Notre Dame parish and their pastor, Fr. Ed Buelt arrived, with no particular plans to visit Julia's tomb. "Essy" immediately swung into action and gave them a short presentation on the Servant of God and her Cause for canonization and promised to deliver some prayer cards to their parish office.

♥ For Black History month, Dr. Barbara Wilcots, vice president for student affairs at Regis University, presented "From Slave to Saint," a discussion on Julia's Cause for canonization, at the February presentation of Regis' Good Trouble Conversation program.

♥ Always on duty, vacationing Guild President Mary Leisring has entered new waters, figuratively! On a cruise ship in Latin American waters, she gave a pre-Lenten Julia Greeley presentation to a group of about 10-15 fellow seabound cruisers, probably the very first such event ever!

♥ Jay Nies, editor of the *Central Missourian*, reported that the story Sheryl Tirol wrote for Regis University's magazine was recently posted on *Our Sunday Visitor's* wire service.

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., Apr. 5, 5:30 p.m.

Fri., May 3, 5:30 p.m.

Fri., Jun. 7, 5:30 p.m.

Fri., Jul. 5, 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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Denver CO 80203-1913

juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com

(303) 558-6685

www.juliagreeley.org

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 will be on Apr. 18, May 16, and June 20. 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 for the ZOOM.

Paid Memberships ♥

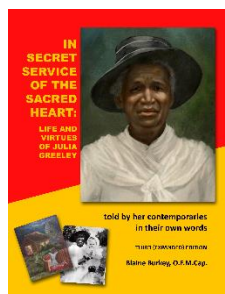
Help us build our **paid** membership by joining the **Julia Greeley Guild** and inviting



Greeley Guild Galleria

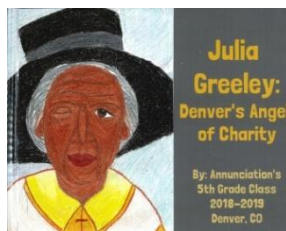
The Guild has a number of items available for purchase at its office at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, 1525 N. Logan St., Denver CO 80203-1913. A check made out to "Cathedral Basilica" in the amount of the price of the item(s) wanted and the name and address, phone number, and email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



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
Frankie Rachell-Bruce, 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.**

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
Eileen Love
Fr. Regis Scanlon, O.F.M.Cap.**