



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-Eighth Issue 4-26-2021

SAVE THESE DATES !!!

June 7 – Julia's Death Anniversary
Mass, Cathedral Basilica – 5:30 pm
Bp. Jorge Rodriguez, celebrant

June 26 – Julia's Baptism
Anniversary Mass, Sacred Heart
Church, 2780 Larimer St. – 7 pm

Changing of the Guard ♥

As of July 1, Julia Greeley's remains will have a new guardian and the Guild a new pastor. Fr. Samuel Morehead, currently pastor of All Souls parish, eight miles down Logan St., will replace Fr. Ron Cattany, who

will move 30 some miles north to Mead CO, where he will be pastor of Guardian Angels parish.

Fr. Morehead will be the Guild's sixth pastor. We started in 2011 under Fr. Gene Emrisek, O.F.M.Cap., and continued under Fr. Alvaro Pancueva, both at Sacred Heart; then moved to Curé d'Ars parish under Fr. Simon Kalonga and Fr. Faustinus Anyamele; and moved to the Cathedral under Fr. Cattany when Julia's body was transferred there in 2017.



A native of Colorado, Fr. Morehead was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Denver in 2012. Having first studied broadcasting journalism and English at the University of Colorado at Boulder, he

studied for the priesthood at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary. At All Souls since 2015, he has also served as a regular guest lecturer on the Sacred Liturgy and the spiritual life for the Spirituality Year of the seminary, in addition to being a visiting professor for the Midwest Theological Forum's Rome Experience summer formation program. With a penchant for history and culture, he is particularly passionate about his family's English homeland. His greatest loves are Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin, and the Catholic Church.



Fr. Cattany Great Friend of Julia and Her Guild ♥

Fr. Cattany invited us to ministry at the Cathedral Basilica, provided us a headquarters office near his own office, very regularly attended the Guild's

meetings, and contributed much to their success. The Guild especially appreciates his procuring the beautiful red heart wood funerary box and the Carrara marble sarcophagus for Julia's remains and for the devotion to her that he has personally fostered in the Cathedral parish.

Breaking News !!!

Two Annual Masses ♥

Early this year, Fr. Joseph LaJoie, now in his second year as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, told the Guild he was anxious to promote the Servant of God Julia Greeley's home parish as a point of veneration and intercession (*see his letter to the right*)

This was extremely welcome news to the Guild, since the transfer of Julia's body to the Cathedral Basilica in 2017 unwittingly took our attention away from the previous good relationship we have had with the Julia's former stomping grounds.

Long before there was a Guild, Father Medrano, pastor of Sacred Heart and son of the parish, marked several anniversaries of Julia's death with open-air Masses near her grave at Mt. Olivet.

In 2013, the Guild began the annual practice of having such Masses at Sacred Heart Church on or near June 7, the anniversary of Julia's "passing the pearly gates."

When Julia's body was transferred to the Cathedral in 2017, the annual Masses moved there also, where we have been able to have a much larger gatherings of Julia friends.

There's no reason, however, why we can't also have an annual Mass at Sacred Heart Church on a smaller, more intimate scale.

Julia herself didn't know when she was born into slavery so she probably never celebrated her birthday. We do know when she was reborn into the freedom of Christ's kingdom, and it is another great anniversary to celebrate.

So this year on Saturday, June 26, the Guild will celebrate the 141st

anniversary of Julia's baptism, with a 7 pm Mass, and we hope many of our Members and Friends are able to join us. Put it in your calendar while you're still thinking about it.

Julia at Her Home Parish ♥

By Father Joseph LaJoie

I began as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in June 2019 and I have wanted to look at promoting Julia Greeley's cause in her home parish, as a point of veneration and intercession.

There is a corner of the church that would be perfect for a shrine to eventually be erected in devotion to her and I would love to meet with you some time and/or show you the part of the church I am thinking.

I would love to be more active in her cause, but I have been overwhelmed with so much in my first year as a pastor. Even still, I have been interceding to her daily, most especially these past few months that her first miracle is that I am not the last pastor of Sacred Heart or that it doesn't burn down under my care.

In all seriousness, she has long been a holy hero of mine, and the first thing I did after being told I was named pastor of Sacred Heart was, not to drive from the chancery to my parish neighborhood, but to stop at the Cathedral first and ask for her intercession immediately.

Anyhow, I have been meaning to reach out and get some ball rolling somewhere for a while now and after reading a few mentions of her in the last *Denver Catholic*, I felt Julia nudging me to finally send you an email.



Fun Raising Fundraiser ♥



The poster features a purple header with the text "The Julia Greeley Guild Fundraiser" and a logo. Below the header are two images: a baseball stadium at night and a Colorado Rockies mascot. The text on the poster reads: "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 Leisring Cathedral Basilica 1535 N. Logan Street Denver, CO 80203".

These are the dates/times for the games:

1. Sat., May 15th vs. Reds @ 6:10 pm
2. Sun., May 23rd vs. D-Backs @ 1:10 pm
3. Sun., June 6th vs. A's @ 1:10 pm
4. Fri., June 18th vs. Brewers @ 6:40 pm
5. Sun., July 4th vs. Cardinals @ 1:10 pm
6. Sun., August 8th vs. Marlins @ 1:10 pm
7. Sat., Aug. 21st vs. D-Backs @ 6:10 pm
8. Sun., Sept. 26th vs. Giants @ 1:10 pm

Role Models ♥

by Mary Leisring

Why do Catholics venerate so many Saints and celebrate feasts in their honor? It is because we need examples and inspirations in our Christian journey.

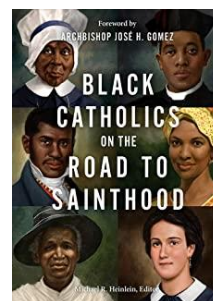
It can be hard for Black Catholics to find holy individuals that they can identify with and look to for insights and visions. American Black Catholics now have a book which can help to meet this need.

The book is not meant for just Black Catholics, however. Entitled *Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood*, it offers short biographies and personal reflections on six men and women who, in different ways, lived outstanding Christian lives of holiness in various circumstances in an environment which challenged them to show what it means to be heroic in following Christ.

Each of the persons whose life is featured in this booklet found a way to use his/her talents to make a difference.

The challenge for each of us is to discern the needs and opportunities in our circumstances and rise to live a life for others. We can have a ripple effect to draw others to join us in promoting justice and equality wherever we are.

Readers will find their curiosity stirred so that they can pursue larger volumes which get into more details on the lives of these heroic men and women.



Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood is a 96-page paperback released by Our Sunday Visitor Press on Feb. 28.

Six biographies written by Michael R. Heinlein, are "foreworded" by Archbishop Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the USCCB, and feature

reflections by Bishop Joseph Perry, Gloria Purvis, Elizabeth Scalia, Peter Jesserer Smith, Fr. Josh Johnson, and Sr. Josephine Garrett CSFN.

Amazon offers the book for \$9.95.

Good Morning, Good People ♥

Early in the pandemic, the Capuchin Franciscans of Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and Texas started posting online daily video greetings reaching out to its newly homebound friends and benefactors. On Feb. 1, 2021, Fr. Blaine Burkey gave a short

reflection on Julia, which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wITxDgldAGA>.

Julia Presentations ♥

- ♥ "Walking With the Saints, Diocese of Columbus, ZOOM, Nov. 1, Mary Leisring
- ♥ Chesterton Academy of Our Lady of Victory High School Englewood CO, in person, Feb. 26, Dustin Caldwell.
- ♥ *The Tablet*, Diocese of Brooklyn, phone interview with Erin DeGregorio, Feb. 10, Mary Leisring. <https://thetablet.org/servant-of-god-julia-greeley-road-sainthood/>
- ♥ "In His Sign," Radio Station KTMR, Philadelphia, phone interview, Mar. 4, Fr. Blaine Burkey. A podcast of the program is available at www.inhissign.com. The Greeley portion of the podcast is at 1:04:40 on the timeline.
- ♥ Archdiocese of Santa Fe, ZOOM, April 26, Mary Leisring.
- ♥ 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.

Another Possible Book ♥

Alexia Williams, post-doctoral associate at the Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University in St. Louis, talked about the six African-American candidates for sainthood at the Drexel Dialogues, organized by the Catholic Student Center on Nov. 17.

Alexia did her doctoral dissertation at Yale on African-American candidates for sainthood, but she studied only some of the Saintly Six. She hopes to one day add Julia and other missing ones and publish it. Later this year she begins teaching at the University of Illinois at Urbana.



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 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., 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

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 am MT. Next meetings: May 20, June 17, and July 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 anywhere on the planet, and we've already enjoyed having friends from Perrineville NJ, Austin TX, Duluth MN and Jefferson City MO join the Colorado faithful.

Guild Helpers in Heaven ♥

By Fr. Blaine Burkey

This past December, when we had been waiting for 28 months for anything to happen in Rome in Julia's Cause, it occurred to me I should stop asking Julia to help move things along, since she would not likely want to be promoting herself.

So I started asking her five fellow black American servants of God to work on her behalf. I did so frequently for a little over a month, and was happily surprised to see my prayers answered.

I hope the five will help keep things moving, but I have also thought of another saintly solicitor to enlist, St. Katharine Drexel.

We know for a fact that Katharine had some interest in Julia already while on earth, as **she had in her possession a typed transcript of Julia's lengthy *Denver Catholic Register* obituary.**

It occurs to me now (**caution: we are now moving into a series of unproveable suppositions**), but Katharine may very well have met Julia on the occasion of her visit to Denver in 1911, seven years before Julia's death. She visited the Jesuits at Sacred Heart College (now Regis University) on Oct. 18 and they recorded the visit on p. 108 of their House Diary.

At the time, Julia was employed as a cook working just across Lowell Blvd. from Sacred Heart College. Jennie and Maggie Ryan were close friends of the Jesuits, and it's quite possible (but undocumented) that Jennie and Maggie were invited by their Jesuit friends to meet Mother Drexel.

Katharine was well known as spending much of her life funding and otherwise

supporting the evangelization of African and Native Americans, which might have led the Ryans to take Julia with them to meet Katharine. Maybe someday further research will support some of these suppositions.

Meanwhile, St. Katharine, please help the Guild in its mission to make Julia better known.

Julia a 'Halo Girl' ♥

Surfing on the Web turned up an interesting new image of Julia Greeley with a red wagon full of hearts. Someone going by the name Seashell Nell



seems to have drawn the image which is for sale on one of a dozen different 4 x 6 inch greeting cards called "Halo Girls" being offered for sale at <https://www.etsy.com> for \$9.50. The wording on the card is "Julia Greeley pray that I may be Big-hearted."



Greeley Mug Available ♥

Vivian Imbroglia, who wrote the icon of Julia for the Archdiocese, has designed and produced a mug with the icon on it and a prayer for Julia's canonization on the back side. The mug and regular icons of Julia are available at Vivian's shop at the <https://www.etsy.com> emporium.

Official Guild Statistics ♥

Friends of Julia

On our mailing lists – 4-26-2021

1,059

which includes

Guild Members

Dues paying – 4-26-2021

240

Study of the Friends' List ♥

Late last year, *Wagon's* mailing list topped 1,000, which presented a good opportunity to study the breadth of its reach.

The majority of those on the list are located in Colorado, but Julia's fame has gone far beyond the Centennial State's borders. There are subscribers now from at least 38 states, the District of Columbia, and 13 foreign countries.

Thus far we have not identified any of those on the list as being from Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wyoming, Utah; but there may well be some, since there are many on the list for whom we have only email addresses.

The foreign countries with *Wagon* readers are Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Poland, Italy, Malta, Ghana, Uganda, Borneo, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines.

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

Mea Maxima Culpa ♥

By Fr. Blaine Burkey

Not deliberately nor consciously, but rather through negligence, I editorially added 13 years to Julia's enslavement. It added no new pain for her, but it certainly was an embarrassing blow to my persistent efforts to get Julia's story right.

When I submitted the text for *An Hour with Julia Greeley*, I wrote, "Freed near the end of the Civil War, Julia labored for about nine years as a cook and nanny for the children of Dr. Paul G. Robinson and his wife Lina..."

When the galley proofs came back, they said, "Before being freed near the end of the Civil War, Julia labored for about nine years as a cook and nanny for Dr. Paul G. Robinson and his wife, Lina..."

I missed the switch altogether when proofreading, and noticed it only about a year after the pamphlet was published.

Since then I heard this newest mistake about Julia on a radio program about her and read it in a book, which said, "Greeley spent nearly a decade in St. Louis as housekeeper for a prominent white family before she gained her freedom after the Emancipation Proclamation."

Let me put it another way: Julia Greeley was freed from slavery in 1865 and worked for the Robinsons from about 1869 till 1878.

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

Guild Contacts ♥

Julia Greeley Guild

c/o Cathedral Basilica

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Our Officers ♥

Mary Leisring, President & Treasurer

Dustin Caldwell, Vice President

& Recording Secretary

Kevin Knight, Secretary

Fr. Ron Cattany, Pastor *till July 1*

Fr. Sam Morehead, Pastor *as of July 1*

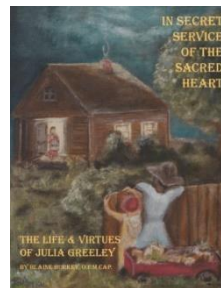
Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., Consultant



Greeley Guild Galleria

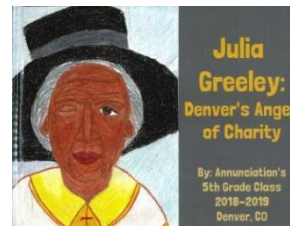
The Guild has a number of items available for purchase at its office at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, 1525 N. Logan St., Denver CO 80203-1913. A check made out to "Cathedral Basilica" in the amount of the price of the item(s) wanted and the name and address, phone number, and email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

