

Lil' Red Wagon

of the Servant of God Julia Greeley



**official newsletter of
The Julia Greeley Guild
a ministry of
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Denver, Colorado**

**Forty-eighth Issue
10-10-2025**

Notre Dame Football

“Servant of God Julia Greeley” on Saturdays with the Saints, Oct. 18♥

Saturdays with the Saints, a popular Notre Dame football pregame ritual, combines the university's rich traditions of Catholic faith and spirited game days. And Julia Greeley has now found her way there!

Dr. Michael Baxter, visiting associate professor in Notre Dame's McGrath Institute for Church Life, will present an hour-long program on "Julia Greeley of Denver: A Black Woman, a White Angel, and a Red Wagon for the Works of Mercy on Wheels"

prior to the Notre Dame-Southern California game at 10:30 a.m. on Oct 18.

Baxter's power point presentation will be held in the Andrews Auditorium, located on the lower level of Geddes Hall, adjacent to the Hesburgh Library (well-known for its "Word of Life" mural, nicknamed by sports fans "Touchdown Jesus"). The talks are free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early as the events tend to fill to capacity.

A former fulltime professor at Notre Dame and Regis University, Baxter resides in Denver.

Petition Seeks to Rename Park for Julia Greeley ♥

A Denver resident who believes he has received significant personal favors for his family through the intercession of Julia Greeley, and several friends have begun seeking signatures on a petition to rename McDonough Park on Federal Blvd. the Julia Greeley Park.

Alex Frank and several fellow parishioners at St. Catherine of Siena Parish have posted the Petition on the web site at <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/name-a-park-for-denvers-angel-of-charity>

Named Columbia Park at its beginning-- possibly in 1892, the 400th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in America-- the block-sized park was renamed after John M. McDonough, a co-developer of Beverley Neighborhood, at the time of his death in 1912. As a developer, he had been responsible for the dedication of several parks in what had become Denver's Beverley Neighborhood in 1902.

The only photo we have of Julia was taken in the park in 1916. She is known to have been in the park many times during the years that she served as a nanny for Marjorie Urquhart who lived just two blocks northwest of the park. They went by or

through the park on frequent visits to St. Catherine of Sienna Church across Federal Blvd. from the park.

Alex is a Yale trained history instructor at Ambleside, a Christian ecumenical school in Lone Tree CO. He and his wife went on Fr. Blaine's 2023 bus pilgrimage and ask Julia to help them find a new home and the child they had been trying to have. Both prayers were happily answered within a week.

Apostleship Finds Julia ♥

In the latter half of the 19th century and early 20th, Julia Greeley spend countless hours making the Apostleship of Prayer and its devotion to the Sacred Heart known throughout Denver.

Now, the national office of the Apostleship, recently renamed (by the late Pope Francis himself) the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Net-work, has come looking for Julia.

Grace Mazza Urbanski, assistant national director of the Network, recently told the Guild, that in the process of developing a new program for the Network, "my prayer keeps leading me back to Julia Greeley. Whether God is sending her to me as a personal prayer companion for my work, or whether he is inviting me to make Julia's service to the Church more well known as a part of our new project, I am not sure. But I am so grateful to be in touch with you."

The international office of the Network in Rome has images of the Apostleship membership cards of St. Therese of Lisieux and St. Giorgio Frassati, and Ms. Urbanski is eager to add some record of Julia's membership for the Network's community of saints.

Unfortunately, there is no known membership card for Julia, but there is abundant testimonies to her activities as a member, and not only a member, but an official promoter of members.

Kendrick Castillo's Causes Considered on New Path ♥

Another possible cause for canonization is under consideration in the Denver area.

St. Mark Catholic Church of Highlands Ranch, which is in the Diocese of Colorado Springs, has submitted an 80-page petition asking Bishop James Golka to open a cause before the Holy See in Rome for Kendrick Castillo, and Golka on July 29 announced that he will seriously consider the merits of the petition to open a cause.

Castillo, a 17-year-old senior and member of the Knights of Columbus, was killed by a disgruntled schoolmate, at The Stem School in Highlands Ranch on May 7, 2019.

Eight other students were injured in the school shooting, but Kendrick is being put forward for canonization because he saved the lives of numerous others by lunging at the assailant.

Previously, the Church recognized two paths in recognizing saints: martyrdom and heroic virtue. The late Pope Francis, in 2017, established a third pathway called the "offering of life." The new path requires that the person practiced an ordinary life of virtue up till the time of death, and offered his life for love of God and neighbor (John 15.13). A verified miracle is also required for beatification.

About Br. Columba ♥

In Issue 46, we reported that Servant of God Brother Columba O'Neill, C.S.C., began a "fruitful career in Denver" in 1869, and wished we could find more about that time.

A conversation with Fr. Richard Gribble, C.S.C., Columba's official biographer, assured *Wagon* that there is very little chance of learning more. What little we reported came from an article written by Notre Dame students who at some point

chatted with Columba about his time here, but there was no transcript of that conversation.

All the same, we now have documentary evidence that Columba was here, and long remembered, in the form of a letter sent to him in 1919 by Mrs. Emmet, which *Wagon* is now pleased to make available. It is from the archives of Midwest Province of C.S.C. Brothers, in Notre Dame IN.

1030 Washington St.
Denver Colo
Aug. 26th 1919

Dear Bro Columba

Surely it was with a joyous heart that I read your letter which I will keep Sacred as a souvenir; and the Badges, for which I pray you accept my heartfelt thanks; I assure you Dear Bro I prize very much, especially your Special Badge, for which I have Special need; Now, that I am growing in years, Rheumatics affect me very much in my feet and Shoulders especially at every change of weather; I have read your letter to a few friends, so don't be surprised if you should receive Some Short Epistles from Denver Folk.

Well Brother Your Picture is indeed a revelation of the true Religious Life; That Peace which the world cannot give, is revealed in that face, Thank God.

Well Bro Columba in my short Note I said that I would give you a line on my life Since last we met on that little Depot in Denver, I married on Nov, 22nd 1880. There were born to us Six Sons and two Daughters All Healthy and Joyous, Thank God; all lived to be of age, but one (John Emmet) who died at the age of 4 months.

<signed> Mrs. Emmet

The Badges spoken of were Sacred Heart Badges and/or Immaculate Heart of Mary Badges, of which Columba himself crafted and distributed in huge numbers, and through which he attributed the heavenly favors his friends said they were receiving.

Other Presentations ♥

♥**TBA:** Mary Leisring will make a presentation at Jesuit Regis High School at a date yet TBD

♥**Mar. 26, 2026:** Mary Leisring will make a presentation to 4th graders at Nativity of Our Lord School, Broomfield.

♥**Mar. 28, 2026:** Fr. Blaine is scheduled to lead another five-hour Julia Greeley Lenten bus pilgrimage in the Denver area.

Guild Contacts ♥

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Monthly Membership Forums ♥

All Guild Members and other Friends of Julia are welcome at our monthly membership forums, at which we exchange ideas and views on Julia and her cause for canonization. From Sept. to May, we meet by ZOOM every Third Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. MT. The coming meetings will be on Oct. 16 and Nov. 20. If you have not previously been to one of these meetings, you will need to contact us at 720-773-1133 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 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 Board of Directors ♥

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Kevin Knight, secretary
Mary L. Leisring, treasurer
Frankie Rachell-Bruce
Fr. Eric Zegeer
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honored while with us

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 Mary Frances O'Sullivan +
 Sr. Mary Prudence Allen. R.S.M.
 Fr. Gene Emrisek, O.F.M.Cap.
 Linda Marie Skidmore Chase

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honored posthumously

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 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.

Msgr. Michael Glenn
 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
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 Dcn Clarence McDavid



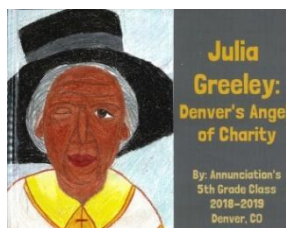
Julia Greeley Books

The following books are available for purchase at our office at Sacred Heart Church, 2760 Larimer St., Denver CO 80205. A check made out to "Julia Greeley Guild" 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 juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com. 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

