



## 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-Seventh Issue 2-1-2021**

**Black History Month Issue**

## Big, Big News ♥

This will be a small story releasing enormous news. We've been waiting for two years, four months, and 18 days to hear that things are moving in Rome. Vice-Postulator Dave Uebbing has received word from Postulator Waldery Hilgeman that the Congregation for the Causes of Saints has issued a decree approving the validity of the investigation here in Denver of Julia's life and cult. The next step is to appoint a person to construct the official *Positio* based on the Denver findings delivered to Rome on Sept. 14, 2018.



## Cardinal Gregory: Eucharist & Works of Mercy ♥

*In "A Eucharistic Vision for Today's World," Cardinal Wilton Gregory's keynote address for the Eucharistic Congress called to mark the current bicentennial of the Diocese of Richmond, His Eminence spoke of how Eucharistic adoration requires*

*action.*



*We reprint part of his Nov. 7 address here, since it offers insights which can profitably be*

*traced through the life story of our Servant of God Julia, whose Eucharistic devotion was so remarkable.*

"True eucharistic devotion is not a substitute for social justice, Christian involvement with the world, or Gospel-based charity," he said. "In a similar vein, those who promote and encourage a deeper eucharistic devotional life must be aware that the favored result of a eucharistic spirituality is a greater commitment to the charity and justice called for in the Gospel by Christ himself."

Those who participate in eucharistic devotion, the cardinal-designate said, have an "obligation to take upon yourself the very mission of Christ."

"One cannot pray before the Blessed Sacrament — the Bread of Life — and not eventually also recall that all those who dine on the Lord's generosity have a responsibility in justice and in charity to respond to the needs of those who hunger for ordinary bread each day," he said. Gregory explained what should result from eucharistic devotion.

"The true evidence of a proper eucharistic devotional life is a deeper commitment to the needs of the poor, the forgotten, the ones

whom Christ identified as the least of his sisters and brothers,” he said.

“True eucharistic devotion must connect us with the still unfinished work of eradicating racism in our society — a topic that has come to the fore in recent months perhaps as never before,” the prelate added.

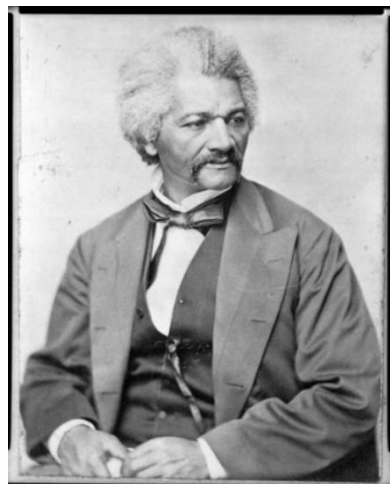
## Ohio Justice Committee ♥

A group of parishioners of St. Matthew the Apostle parish in Gahanna OH, a suburb of northeast Columbus, meets virtually to pray and discuss ways they can prayerfully and proactively make changes in the area of racial justice. “We have decided to call ourselves the Julia Greeley committee,” said Julie Ratliff, “as our parish was enthroned to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Sacred Heart devotion was loved by Julia Greeley, too. We also plan to pray for the cause of Julia’s canonization.” The meetings are on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. EST, and anyone interested can join the group by emailing Julie Ratliff at [jratliff@stmatthew.net](mailto:jratliff@stmatthew.net) for their meeting link.

## A Precious Pearl Found ♥

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

While web surfing yesterday I stumbled onto and read Frederick Douglas’ Sept. 3, 1848, open letter to Mr. Thomas Auld, his former enslaver. It’s a masterfully crafted



document Douglas published in his newspaper, the *North Star*, to share with white folks the horrors of slavery.

I urge all of Julia’s friends,

white and black alike, to read every word of this letter, imagining, if you might, that it’s written by a long-lost brother of Julia. It’ll give you many new insights into Julia’s background and possible way of thinking that my writings have no way of accomplishing, since not a single one of my sources was ever in slavery.

The original letter is in the Library of Congress, but a transcript thereof can be found on a web site at the University of San Francisco:

<https://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/45/my-bondage-and-my-freedom/1509/letter-to-his-old-master-to-my-old-master-thomas-auld/>

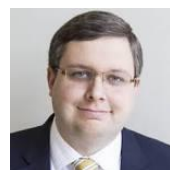
Auld actually read Douglass’s letter and informed him that he had not turned out his grandmother Betsey Bailey to die homeless. Douglass publicly apologized profoundly to Auer on two different occasions for falsely accusing him.

I have several related documents written by some of my Catholic ancestors in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Maryland. They begin by piously professing their belief in God and trust in his merciful forgiveness and then pass on to their spouses and children their land, horses and slaves.

These last will and testaments have always left me sad, but only since I have read Frederick’s letter have I fully felt their hypocrisy. I still thank God for the genes and faith these men handed on to my generation of the family, but I also ask God’s pardon and that of the black community for the terrible lies my forefathers bought into and acted on.

## Book About Saintry Six ♥

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



Six biographies written by Michael R. Heinlein, are “foreworded” by Archbishop

Heinlein

Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the USCCB, and will feature reflections by Bishop Joseph Perry, Gloria Purvis, Elizabeth Scalia, Peter Jesserer Smith, Fr. Josh Johnson, and Sr. Josephine Garrett CSFN.

Sad to say, although the book hasn't been released yet, Nate Tinner-Williams, editor of *The Black Catholic Messenger*, has already posted a critique of it unseen, titled "New Black Saints Book May Fall Flat," mainly because some of those reflecting have not shared his own vision of black thought.

Amazon says the book will sell for \$9.95.

## What Can I Do? ♥

By Kate Springs

I am a member of the Julia Greeley Guild; and as such, I have asked to share a little of my heart regarding the canonization process for Julia's cause. I wish it would move along faster!! I'm sure this is a feeling we all have.

Fr. Blaine writes in his book, *In Secret service of the Sacred Heart, The Life and Virtues of Julia Greeley*, Julia "will always remain a stellar role model for all those who have been placed in challenging situations in life, as well as those who have been blessed with everything."

It is in those words that I experience a sense of urgency caused by the danger facing black and brown people these days. Four hundred years of racial injustice, a global health crisis disproportionately effecting people of color, mass unemployment, mass incarceration, inequity in education and more cry out for mercy and Julia's example of loving kindness.

Certainly these are those "challenging situations" our brothers and sisters face daily.

Julia's love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus, her life of prayer, and her acts of loving service are models for how we can proceed in these overwhelming times of need.

I think of the mothers on the South Side of Chicago who claim street corners in their neighborhoods as their "watch places" marked by lawn chairs and picnic tables covered with trays of cookies and pitchers of lemonade. They quietly sit there, keeping surveillance over their streets so that killings have been reduced in those communities.

I think of community organizations whose members give of their time to meet, to identify who has the power to control the delivery of city services to the community, as well as, who has the power to make constructive meaningful change in our penal system -and on and on - to address the unequal treatment of people of color. All of this to encourage structural change so that our communities serve everyone equally.

This is the 21st century work of Julia Greeley - quiet prayer and loving acts of mercy, almost so that no one really notices who is doing this work. But the work gets done.



The story of Julia's life raises for us the question, what can I do in my corner of the world to make life a little better for someone else? Her story will be told around the world, once she is recognized by the Church as a canonized saint thereby, giving us an example and courage to do what it means to be the hands of Jesus in our own time.

So, we need this canonization soon. The time is now. Let's hope the process moves along, faster!!

Dear Julia Greeley, pray for us.

## Miracles & Canonizations ♥

In the process of discerning a person's worthiness for beatification and canonization, once it has been established by Rome that the person practiced the virtues to



a heroic degree, which hasn't happened yet, it then will become necessary to point to a favor received through the person's intercession in a case in which there is no other explainable reason than divine intervention.

In the hope that someday this will be necessary in Julia's cause, it is useful to hear what Capuchin Fr. Edward Foley, vice-postulator of Blessed Solanus Casey's cause, has to say about his current efforts. Listen to <https://solanuscasy.org/blessed-solanus-casey-next-steps-on-the-road-to-sainthood>

## **Greeley 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.
- ♥ "In His Sign," Radio Station KTMR, Philadelphia, phone interview, Mar. 3, Fr. Blaine Burkey.
- ♥ Archdiocese of Santa Fe, ZOOM, in April, Mary Leisring.
- ♥ Howard University, Washington DC, ZOOM, in April, Mary Leisring
- ♥ Julia Greeley Committee at St. Matthew the Apostle Church, Gahanna OH, ZOOM, date TBD, Mary Leisring.

## **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. Next meetings: Feb. 18, Mar. 18, Apr. 15 & May 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. ZOOM meetings have allowed friends of Julia to join us anywhere on the planet, and we've already enjoying having friends from Perrineville NJ, Austin

TX, Duluth MN and Jefferson City MO join the Colorado faithful.



## **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 (except for April when Good Friday falls on the First Friday). 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., February 5, 12:10 p.m.**
- Fri., March 5, 5:30 p.m.**
- Fri., April 9, 5:30 p.m.**
- 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](mailto:juliagreeleyscanoe@gmail.com)



## Greeley Mug Available ♥

Vivian Imbruglia, 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. It is available from ETSY at the following link: [https://www.etsy.com/listing/909245683/servant-of-god-julia-greeley-11-oz-mug?ga\\_order=most\\_relevant&ga\\_search\\_type=all&a\\_view\\_type=gallery&ga\\_search\\_query=sacred+image+icons+Julia+greeley&ref=sr\\_gallery-1-2&organic\\_search\\_click=1](https://www.etsy.com/listing/909245683/servant-of-god-julia-greeley-11-oz-mug?ga_order=most_relevant&ga_search_type=all&a_view_type=gallery&ga_search_query=sacred+image+icons+Julia+greeley&ref=sr_gallery-1-2&organic_search_click=1)

## Julia on Social Media ♥

To expand interest in Julia Greeley's cause and in an effort to increase membership and friendship in the Guild, we have launched a Facebook page. This page is being managed by Brigid Demko of the Cathedral Basilica staff. The page entitled "Julia Greeley Guild at the Cathedral Basilica" can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2732619723633828>

We are also in the planning stage of launching Twitter and Instagram pages that will be designed and managed by Guild member Dustin Caldwell.

All three social media platforms will be overseen by Guild President Mary Leisring.

Meanwhile, it might be good to point out the existence of a Twitter account on Julia, which seems to be hosted by the Communications Office of the Archdiocese.

It has some very fine videos and other postings between the time of the opening of the Official Cause in December of 2016 and July 13, 2020. It's at <https://twitter.com/hashtag/juliagreeley>.

## Official Guild Statistics ♥

### Friends of Julia

On our mailing lists – 2-1-2021

**1,032**

which includes

### Guild Members

Dues paying – 2-1-2021

**222**

## 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**

## Guild Contacts ♥

**Julia Greeley Guild**  
c/o Cathedral Basilica  
1535 N. Logan St.  
Denver CO 80203-1913  
[juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com](mailto:juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com)  
(303) 558-6685  
[www.juliagreeley.org](http://www.juliagreeley.org)

## Guild Officers ♥

Mary Leisring, President & Treasurer  
Kevin Knight, Secretary  
Fr. Ron Cattany, Pastor  
Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., Consultant

## Other Guild Officers ♥

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

## Wagoneers ♥

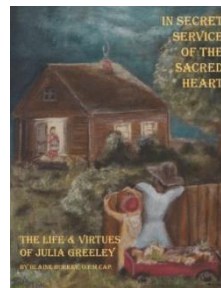
Fr. Blaine Burkey, pro tem editor; Mary  
Leisring, president & circulation mgr.



**Greeley Guild Galleria**

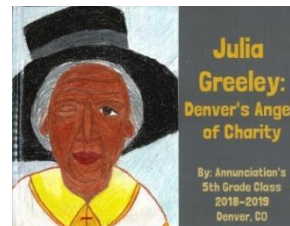
The Guild has a number of items available for purchase at its office at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, 1525 N. Logan St., Denver CO 80203-1913. A check made out to "Cathedral Basilica" in the amount of the price of the item(s) wanted and the name and address, phone number, and email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

