



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-Second Issue 10-29-2019

Julia Greeley Book by Annunciation 5th Graders

The Julia Greeley Guild has published a softcover edition of *Julia Greeley: Denver's Angel of Charity*, the 17-page large format book which Maggie Ellis' fifth-grade class at Annunciation Catholic School wrote and illustrated.

This remarkable children's book by children, suitable for use as a Christmas present, is the result of an intense classroom study of Julia's life and virtues.



The students had already

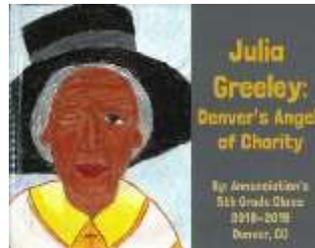
been studying the Servant of God's life and virtues for several weeks, when Fr. Blaine, assisted by Essy Goffinett, Kate Springs and Fr. Charles Polifka visited the class on Oct. 22, 2018, and answered questions about Julia for almost two hours. During the discussion, it was mentioned in passing that the Guild wished that it had a children's book.

After that, the 24 students continued their interest, and decided to put together a book. With the aid of their art teacher, they planned a series of 28 full-color drawings illustrating that many facets of Julia's life.



And thus, they were able to present a hard-cover presentation copy of the book to Archbishop Samuel Aquila on May 31.

Copies are now available by mailing a check for \$15.00 **per book**, made out to "Cathedral Basilica" with "for the book by the children" in the memo line, and mailing it with your full name and address to



Julia Greeley Guild, 1535 N. Logan Street, Denver CO 80203-1913. This will cover the cost of the book, sales tax, and domestic

shipping. Please include both your email address and phone number in case we need to contact you.

Julia Recognized by Fellow Vincentians

Julia Greeley, once tagged by *Denver Catholic Register* editor Paul Hallett as "a one-woman Vincent DePaul Society," was honored

in various ways at the 2019 National Assembly of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul which brought about 750 Vincentians to the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center in Aurora, Aug. 29-31.

Starting over a year ago, Guild member Essy (pronounced EE-see) Goffinett, who is also a member of a local conference of the Vincentians, used her position on the planning commission for the national meeting to assure that Denver's Servant of God Julia would be seen as a sister spirit active in Denver long before the organization was here.

Red wagons filled with water bottles, copies of Fr. Blaine's book, and a poster declaring Julia "a one woman Vincent DePaul Society" filled a good portion of the host city's welcome desk; and Guild members Ria De Dios, Charlotte McKinney, and Fr. Blaine joined Essy in calling attention to Julia -- but sold only six books.

Wheels were turning backstage, however, and Essy and her helpers were pleasantly surprised how the Assembly ended.



After a Friday evening session, Msgr. Raymond East from Washington DC's Black Catholic Office had asked Essy if he could borrow the Guild's red wagons and poster. She used the occasion to also

send him several photos from various Greeley events.

At the last general session on Saturday morning, Monsignor used much of his time as a general presenter to introduce Julia as Denver's pre-Society Vincentian. He passed a solitary third-class relic card he had to every table in the room and told the members that Julia's picture belonged up on the wall along with the Society's founders.

Without any warning, he invited someone from the Guild to join him on stage. Charlotte



McKinney, who was already musing that there were only about 25 black people among the 750 Vincentians attending the Assembly, rose to the occasion and ended up giving a heartfelt account of Julia importance in her life and intercessory prayer life. After that Monsignor gave a lengthy spirited presentation of Julia's life story.

The Guild then had a record sell-out of all 28 remaining books and told numerous others how to buy the books elsewhere.

How To Buy Father's Book ►

You can order them by mail by writing a check for \$20.00 **per book**, made out to "Cathedral Basilica" with "for book by Fr. Blaine" in the memo line, and mailing it with your full name and address to Julia Greeley Guild, 1535 N. Logan Street, Denver CO 80203-1913. This will cover the cost of the book, sales tax, and domestic shipping. Please include both your email address and phone number in case we need to contact you. Unless we are instructed otherwise, the Guild will automatically subscribe you to *Julia's Lil Red Wagon*, the Guild's free newsletter you have in hand.

A New Pamphlet on Julia ►

Fr. Blaine has written a 2,750-word pamphlet, tentatively titled *An Hour with Julia Greeley*, for Liguorian Publications of Liguori MO, a publishing arm of the Redemptorist Congregation.

Liguorian plans to publish the pamphlet as one of a set of such documents on each of the several African-American Catholics presently being considered for canonization. They should be available in time for Black History Month in February and are expected to sell for \$1.99 each.



Seen in Lakewood ►

“Julia Greeley” was spotted fraternizing with numerous saintly folks Oct. 19 at the All Hallows Festival at St. Bernadette’s parish in Lakewood and got to tell her story, as did the others. Deacon Hal Goldwire noticed a beer-simmered bratwurst sandwich in her Lil’ Red Wagon, which she claimed was her lunch.

Anniversary Masses ►

About 150 people attended the Guild’s 7th annual Mass marking the **101th anniversary** of Julia Greeley’s passing heavenward. Fr. Ron Cattany, rector of the cathedral and guardian of Julia’s remains,

was the main celebrant, and Frs. Blaine Burkey and Simon Kalonga concelebrated.

Fr. Blaine’s homily for the occasion is appended at the end of this issue of the Wagon.

Bishop Jorge Rodriguez is scheduled to celebrate Mass for the **102th anniversary** at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, June 7, 2020 at a time yet to be determined. Plan to be with us. It is our main annual event.

That evening from 5 till 10, Trattoria Stella at Colfax and Steele will have a fund raiser, offering 10% of the evening’s proceeds to the Julia Greeley fund for her canonization.

Someday in the future we hope June 7 will be celebrated as Julia’s feast day.



Greeley Canoe Masses ►

In conjunction with the Julia Greeley Guild, the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception has scheduled a series of monthly Masses being offered for the intentions of those who have put themselves in Julia’s Canoe. All 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. A Mass is offered at the Cathedral Basilica every month for the intentions thus listed. Upcoming Masses scheduled for Julia’s Canoe are:

Thu., Nov. 21, 7:10 a.m.
Fri., Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 4, 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 2, 8:30 a.m.

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

Guardian of Greeley Site ►

Guild members are asked to remember in prayer Mrs. Patricia DeLeon, who for 45 years has lived in the Urquhart house on Hooker St., where the Servant of God once foretold the birth of little Marjorie (the "little angel" pictured with Julia) and then served as her nursemaid. Patricia was delighted to learn about Julia's saintly presence and activities in her home a century earlier. She herself has stage-4 pancreatic cancer, and the Guild is now committed to praying for her.

Guild Branch Office: Hawaii

Hello and Greetings from Hawaii! I wrote to your guild in December last year after discovering Julia Greeley online. In response, you sent me relic cards and a book about her life.

I just wanted to update you folks by letting you now that I've slowly been distributing her prayer cards to people in need and have spoken about her life at a monthly prayer meeting I go



to. And most recently, I shared about her at a large speaking presentation I conducted on Saints at a neighboring parish (see photo). People are being inspired by Julia's example!

I will continue including her life in the presentations I conduct here in Hawaii. We are praying for her canonization.

In Christ United, **Peter Cruz**, Guadalupe House Ministry, Hawaii

The Caldwell Plantation ►

In an effort to locate living descendants of Samuel B. Caldwell, the person who "owned" the Servant of God during the slave era, Fr. Blaine learned that one of Caldwell's numerous great, great grandchildren was Msgr. Richard Michael Dierkes, former rector of the co-cathedral in St. Joseph, Missouri, who died at the age of 53 in 2008.



Father is now in the process of locating and speaking to other relatives.

To assist Fr. Blaine in locating anyone who knows anything about Samuel Caldwell's plantation, Jay Nies, editor of the *Catholic Missourian* of the Jefferson City diocese, published a sizeable article on Julia and the need to learn more about her early years (<http://catholicmissourianonline.com/stories/seeking-connections-to-servant-of-god-julia-greeleys-time-as-a-slave,1915>)

Thus far the only response has come from a Jefferson City prison inmate inviting Father to give a talk (presumably on Julia) to his fellow prisoners.

Mary Still Transitioning ►

Guild President Mary Leisring is already busy supporting Julia's cause in new digs at the cathedral offices on Logan St. She is usually there on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 till 2, and can be reached at 303-831-7010. The Archdiocese has hired Kateri Williams as Mary's successor at its Office for Black Ministry.



& Now Mary's Successor ►

I have been greatly blessed in my new role as Director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministry and Community Outreach



Specialist for the Office of Catholic Schools at the Archdiocese of Denver. One such blessing has been to learn more about the life of Servant of God Julia Greeley.

Through the Julia Greeley Guild, under the auspices of Mrs. Mary Leisring, Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., and others, the promotion of the cause for Julia Greeley's canonization is unceasing, and I am in awe and inspired by their efforts. In the span of just two months, I have observed how the work of the Guild is spreading and motivating others on behalf of this humble servant.

Last month, my parish, St. Michael the Archangel opened a new parish center. What a joy it was to witness the blessing and dedication of a new meeting room by the Most Reverend Jorge Rodriguez, Auxiliary Bishop of Denver, in the name of Julia Greeley. By choosing to name this room after our Angel of Charity, the Pastor, Fr. Terrence Kissell, is educating parishioners and all who visit this room about Julia. We will never know the scope of this outreach by this single gesture.

Last week, I had the pleasure of visiting Annunciation Catholic School for the first time. There, I was greeted by a group of enthusiastic young disciples excited to share their publication entitled, *Julia Greeley, Denver's Angel of Charity*. As the authors and illustrators of this children's book as 5th graders, these now 6th graders were eager to share their creation – even providing autographed copies to those who purchased a copy; all for the purpose of furthering the cause of sainthood for Julia Greeley.

Last night, I discovered that a close family friend has lost her vision in one eye and is losing sight in the other. In her piety,

humility and service, this woman much reminds me of Julia Greeley. This friend now has become my personal prayer intention for the intercession of Julia Greeley to our Lord for the healing of her eyesight.

Lastly, I thank the Guild for all their endeavors. May our Heavenly Father grant the Guild continued perseverance and success in the noble pursuit of the canonization of this humble Servant of God, Julia Greeley. **--Kateri Joda Williams**

Some Favors Received ►

“In the afternoon on Aug. 17, I asked you to put into Julia's canoe an intention to assist my friends Karen and Tim, who needed a home. They had sold their family home in order to move into a wheelchair accessible ranch style. But after they sold their family home, the ranch style home they were planning to move into was taken away from them as the owners decided to try to get more money. Now officially “homeless” I prayed to Julia Greeley, friend of the homeless”, and asked you to do the same. Well, on Monday, Aug. 19, we heard that the family reconsidered the need of Karen and Tim and offered them the home. Since then, they have had many offers for them to stay with other families while the home is closed on. Thank you for your help, Julia!”

--Luanne C.

“I had asked Julia for intercession for my 16-month-old grandson [Oliver] that he would start walking on his own, and the next night my grandchild was walking. We are still hoping and praying that he has no developmental delays. That test comes on October 4th.”

– Diane A.

“In 2014 my twenty-seven-year old son discovered he had a virulent blood cancer, acute myeloid leukemia. For the next year and a half, he underwent a heavy regime of chemotherapy and radiation, finally

requiring a cord blood stem cell transplant.

“Till this illness struck, I had a passing appreciation for Julia. When Alex became ill, I made a prayer for Julia’s intercession and prayed it many times over the months, asking for Julia’s help.

“My son went through pneumonia, a drug-caused seizure, liver failure, a shutdown of his gut from graft versus host disease. He had to be fed for months intravenously. The strain I was under was considerable, but the thought of Julia Greeley kept me going. I thought mostly of her kindness.

“After six months in and out of intensive care, Alex came home; nine months later he was permitted to go back to work. He’s on drugs to control reactions, but every month or so his doses have been lessened. So far Alex is well.

“Having read what is known of Julia’s life and the bitter things she endured—from her childhood slavery to the loss of her family, and her malignment by the former Gov. Gilpin—I know she understands mental anguish. I feel she helped me stay sane through my son’s trials.” -Amy W.

Testimonials Needed ►

The Guild is anxious to have on file reports of any favors people feel they have received through Julia’s intercession! Lest any details be forgotten, please submit them to the Guild in written form. Having these on file will enable the Cause to show the power of her intercession.

Coming Meetings ►

All Guild Members and other Friends of **Julia** are invited to our planning meetings at the Cathedral rectory, 1530 N. Logan. St. The Guild meets every third Thursday of the month, at 10:30 a.m. Next meetings: Nov. 21, Dec. 19, Jan. 16, and Feb. 13. If you have not previously been to a meeting, it would be good to contact the

Guild ahead of time to make sure the meeting is still on schedule.

Recalling Fellow Friends ►

We commend to Julia’s intercession the eternal happiness of her deceased Friends.

**Geraldine Magnie
Elaine Massie
Hanna Nevin
Ginger Perkins
Wilmetta Ann Roth
Fr. Marcus Medrano**

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 years. Married couples are enrolled for a single fee. All checks sent to the Guild should be made payable to “Cathedral Basilica,” with the notation on the memo line “for Julia Greeley Guild”

Friends of Julia

On our mailing lists – 10-29-2019

901

which includes

Guild Members

Dues paying –10-29-2019

151

More Information ►

Guild official web site:

<http://www.juliagreeley.org>.

“Julia Greeley: Our Model of Mercy”

<https://vimeo.com/151101683>

PowerPoint by Mary Leisring
<https://youtu.be/RjK4SdAOP41>

Guild Contacts ►

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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 manager.

Appendix ►

Homily at the Mass Mark- ing the 101st Anniversary of Julia Greeley's Passing

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

Two months ago, Fr. Marcus Medrano, one of Julia Greeley's major friends and fellow Sacred Heart parishioners, went to meet her at "the pearly gates," as she called them. Long before

there was a Julia Greeley Guild, Fr. Medrano saw to it that the information earlier friends had gathered would be found and put in a safe place. He also several times marked this anniversary by gathering other friends of Julia for a Mass in her memory at her grave.

Julia's Guild was founded in August 2011, and in 2013 it planned and sponsored the 95th anniversary Mass at Sacred Heart Church. We've had one every year since then, all at Sacred Heart Church until 2017. Once Julia had been entombed here in the Cathedral Basilica, Archbishop Aquila celebrated Julia's 100th anniversary right here with her.

Since the Church has not yet declared Julia a Blessed, we can't celebrate a votive Mass honoring her. So, we have always done something better. We have celebrated a Mass in honor of the one whom she spent her life honoring: Jesus, under the mystery of his Sacred Heart.

Jesus himself did not use the symbol of the Sacred Heart, but he certainly spoke about what is behind the symbol, when he spoke in this evening's gospel of our being attached to the vine so that we remain in him, and he in us (*Jn 15: 5*). We are thus joined with him, not in his physical heart, but in the shared love which his and our hearts symbolize.

In this sense, St. Paul wrote to the church of Ephesus of kneeling before the Father "asking that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith" (*Eph 3:17*). And in St. John's first letter from which we just read, we are urged to love one another because God is love, and if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us. This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us" (*1 Jn 4:13*).

Most other saintly people have given us a peek into their spiritual lives through their writings. Julia Greeley was unable to do that. Actions, however, always speak louder than words. So this evening I'd like you to listen to a couple actions which Julia's friends recalled. With a

little bit of reflection, they can tell us a great deal about Julia's spirituality.

One thing several people remembered was that she walked to the firehouses of Denver every month to deliver leaflets. Ask yourself, why would a woman who worked long hard hours providing for her own needs as well as the needs of others then spend many, many extra hours every month walking all across Denver, racked with arthritic pain, delivering to firefighters and also many others little leaflets which she could barely read. These small pieces of paper were obviously very special to her. Why?

They were leaflets of the Apostleship of Prayer, whose sole purpose was to promote prayer, and thereby union with the love of Jesus. Members of the Apostleship committed themselves to offering their whole day each morning to Jesus symbolized by His Sacred Heart. They also promised to receive the Eucharist once a week, or at least once a month, in reparation for sins committed against Jesus in the Eucharist. Finally, they agreed to pray for one another's intentions, and for those of the Holy Father.

As a promoter of the League of the Sacred Heart, Julia was also intent on urging others to adopt these practices. The Jesuits said Julia was the most zealous apostle of the Sacred Heart they had ever known. They said no other Denverite had equaled her record in distributing Sacred Heart leaflets every month. Knowing this, we must conclude that Julia Greeley would never have devoted so much effort to spreading these practices unless she herself was also fully engaged with them. Here was the secret and centerpiece of her spirituality. Each day she placed all her activity in the secret service of the Sacred Heart and of her sisters and brothers, thereby sanctifying her whole day and night of charitable works.

Another thing that a witness recalled was that Julia rented the first pew on the left side of the church. She had very few funds available to her, and she could have sat anywhere she wanted in the church without paying pew rent. So why did she? It

obviously was important to her that she be up front. Why? Many people sit in the back so they can get quicker, but why did Julia want to be in the front? Probably because it was at the foot of a huge cross, similar to the one over there at her tomb, and at Sacred Heart Church it was as close as she could get to the love of her heart, the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Eucharist, who had given his all for her on the cross. She called the Eucharist her breakfast, and she received it every morning, not just once a week.

We are here this evening to remember Julia on the 101st anniversary of her going home to her lover. We do so by following her example in honoring Him on whom she modeled her life, and with whose inspiration and help she became Denver's Angel of Charity. So, to bring this reflection to a proper end, even though the day is far spent, I invite you to join Julia in making the same offering she made daily by repeating after me:

“O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, / I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day, / for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, / in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the intentions of all our Associates / and in particular for those proposed by the Holy Father for this month./ Amen.”

