

# Rapture in Action

by Megan Dull, SND

January 2022

The intention from the beginning for this piece was to capture the expansive spirit of Julie herself rather than portray physical likeness. The upward sweep of the gesture speaks for itself.

The texture in the lower skirt area offers an accumulation of faces – representative of Julie’s vision of sisters surrounding her at Compiègne, as well as symbolic of all those whose lives are touched by the spirit and charism that is Julie’s as well as our own. Her hands are overly large, suggesting her rootedness with the working poor of her times.

The original Julie was commissioned in 1983 for Regina High School in South Euclid, Ohio, where I was teaching at the time. The figure was first modeled in clay, making use of numerous volunteer sisters who were drafted into posing for various aspects as they happened to stroll by the art lab door. A rubber mold was then constructed around the clay form, from which wax impressions for subsequent castings can be produced. The piece is then cast in bronze. The final patina that enhances the surface, created by layering various chemicals and then rubbing them back, is always a bit different. So, each of these pieces bears its own uniqueness.

To date, nine impressions have been commissioned, and have found their way to our Generalate in Rome, Italy; Notre Dame Educational Center in Chardon, Ohio; Notre Dame Academy, Toledo, Ohio; Notre Dame Academy, Los Angeles, California; Clearwater Central Catholic High School, Clearwater, Florida; Cardinal Gibbons High School, Raleigh, North Carolina; Notre Dame High School in San Jose, California (a SND de Namur school); and most recently, Notre Dame Academy in Park Hills, Kentucky. The original cast for Regina High School is now at Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio.



**Photo** by Norm Trepal