

CAVocation A Voices

Sister Julia Walsh Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration

Sister Julia is part of her congregation's formation team, serving women who are discerning their vocation. Along with another Franciscan Sister, she co-founded The Fireplace, an intentional community and house of hospitality on Chicago's southside that offers spiritual support to artists and activists. She has a MA in Pastoral Studies from Catholic Theological Union and is a certified spiritual director and secondary teacher. As a creative writer, educator, retreat presenter, and speaker she is passionate about exploring the intersection of creativity, spirituality, activism and community life. A regularly published spiritual writer, Sister Julia's work can be found in publications such as *America*, *Living Faith Catholic Devotional*, *Global Sisters Report* and *St. Anthony Messenger*. She blogs and podcasts at MessyJesusBusiness.com and is on Twitter and Instagram as @JuliaFSPA.



Check out: <https://messyjesusbusiness.com/about-sister-julia/>
and <https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/11242019>



Birthplace: Bangor, Maine

Favorite Pastime / Hobby: I love to cook! Here's how I make Lentil Soup: Saute garlic and onion in a pot, along with chopped celery and carrots, add spices (cumin, coriander, turmeric or whatever else you'd like!) Add a cup of rinsed green lentils, a can or two of diced tomatoes and some vegetable or chicken broth (several cups worth) Bring to a boil and then cook on medium low for at least 20 minutes. Add chopped Kale to the pot for the last 5 minutes. Enjoy!

What book is currently on your bedside table?

Paris by the Book by Liam Callanan

I've always wanted to visit: Japan

My favorite thing about being a religious Sister: It is a joy to be deeply committed to sharing life with such an inspiring community! My FSPA sisters have helped me to grow, love, serve and say "yes" to God's love in radical ways.

I receive the most joy from: Nature, Liturgy, Service, Community and Prayer

Why be a religious today: Saying yes to God means that life becomes a great adventure!

Previous ministries: High school theology teacher, campus minister and retreat leader

What are you passionate about? Justice, Social change, community building, spirituality, responding to the Holy Spirit.

How do you relax? Watching RomCom's or playing board games with my living community, along with a good drink and popcorn.

List one BEST PRACTICE you'd like to share with your colleagues. Schedule monthly Zoom check-in meetings with serious discerners to offer them a listening ear, encouragement and relational support.