

# Presentation Archives NL Canada Province of Union

Our NL PBVM Provincial Archives, located at Presentation Convent, Cathedral Square, in St. John's, NL Canada, houses a wealth of material that tells our Presentation story with a theme of "Taking our Past into the Future".

It is a valuable avenue for helping preserve our history, keeping it alive for us and so many others today and preserving it for generations to come.

## **Contact information:**

Archivist: Sister Patricia Whittle  
Assistant Archivist: Sister Marilyn Doyle  
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We welcome Sister Marilyn Doyle who became part of our Archives team this past year and Miss Charlotte Chitaimani who began in July.

Miss Wanita Bates resigned from her position as Assistant Archivist, in July. We are grateful for the creativity and dedication which Wanita brought to this position. We wish her God's blessings for the future.

## The “Veiled Virgin “Sculpture”

One world famous art piece belonging to the Sisters and available for public viewing is a marble sculpture called The Veiled Virgin” currently housed at Presentation Convent, Cathedral Square, home of our Archives.

The "Veiled Virgin" is an absolutely amazing work of art which truly has to be seen to be believed. The marble sculpture is believed to be a one-of-a-kind masterpiece, which is readily understood once you have seen it.

Souvenir cards which help capture the exquisite beauty of this magnificent work of art will be available as part of the tours.  
(See the “Veiled Virgin” Tour Schedule below.)

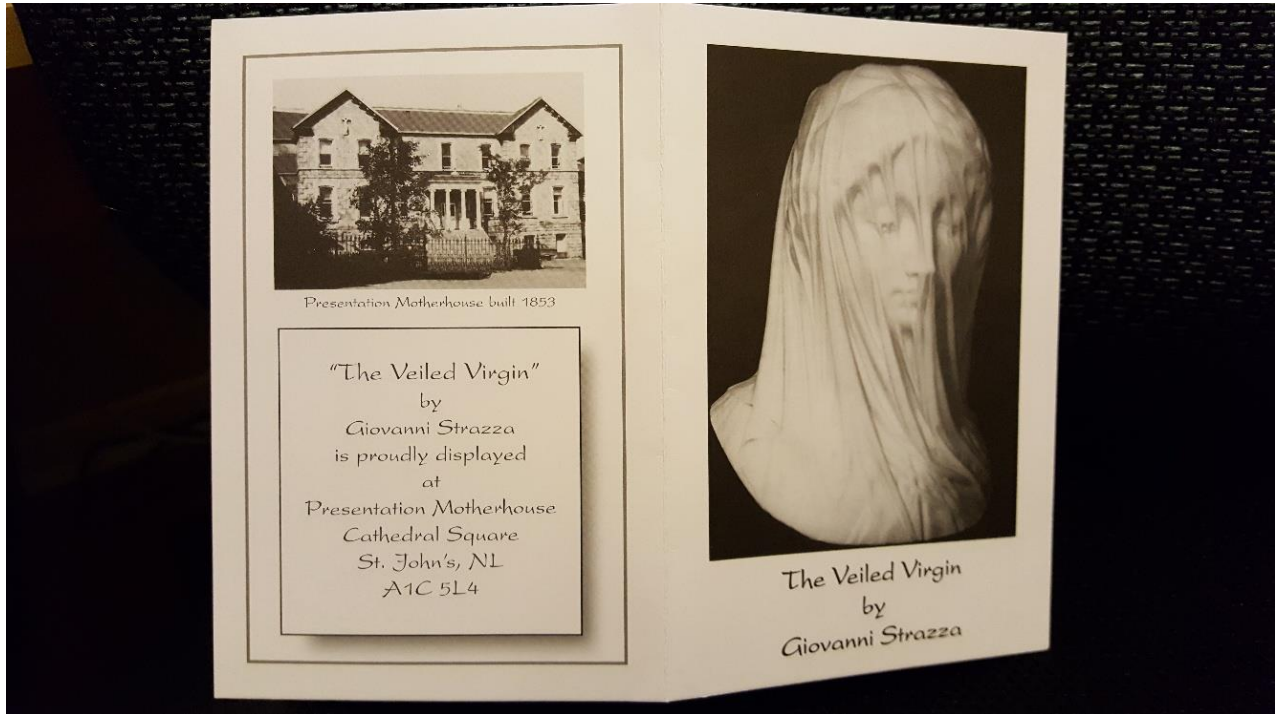


**Fall 2018 Tour Schedule**  
**Effective October 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Monday - Friday from 1:00 - 4:00pm**

**Please watch for further schedule updates.**

**(See below for the story of the Veiled Virgin as it appears on the Souvenir Card)**

## Cover of Souvenir Card



### The Story of the “Veiled Virgin” Sculpture

The Veiled Virgin, the beautiful marble statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was imported from Rome and arrived on December 4, 1856 by Bishop John Thomas Mullock, OSF, Bishop of St. John’s Newfoundland. This “*perfect gem of art*” as the bishop referred to it, was exquisitely sculptured by internationally acclaimed Italian sculptor, Giovanni Strazza (1818-1875) from Milan. A St. John’s newspaper article of the day called it a “*perfect wonder of the sculptor’s art*”. The facial expression has a holy, ethereal quality that provides many people with a deeply religious experience, unique and lasting.

In 1862 Bishop Bullock donated the Veiled Virgin masterpiece to the Presentation Convent through his blood sister, Sister Mary de Pazzi Mullock, who was a professed member of the Presentation Sisters at the time. Mother M. Magdalen O’Shaughnessey, the Superior who accepted the statue for the Congregation, was one of the pioneer Sisters who came to Newfoundland from Galway in 1833.

Some examples of Strazza’s work can be seen in the Vatican Museum while others are found in the Cathedral at Milan.