

“The Veiled Virgin” Sculpture

One world famous art piece belonging to our NL Presentation Sisters, is a marble sculpture called “The Veiled Virgin”, currently housed and available for public viewing in our Archives at Presentation Convent, Cathedral Square, St. John’s, NL

“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 are available as part of the tours. For tour inquiries, please call 709-753-7291.

See the ordinary tour schedule below.

NOTE: All tours cancelled indefinitely as of March 2020 due to Covid-19 safety protocols.

See below for the story of “The Veiled Virgin” as it appears on the Souvenir Card which is available from the Tour Guide.



Tour Schedule

September 2019

Monday through Friday: 1 – 4pm

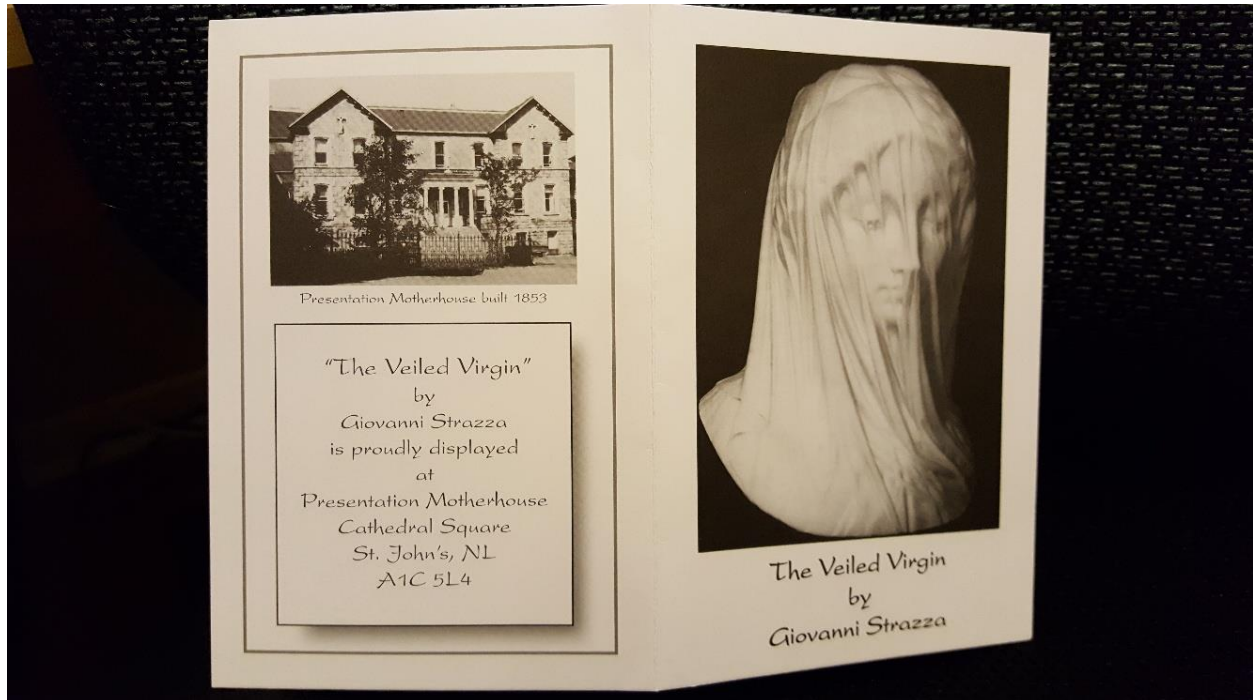
Saturday: 10:00 – 4:00pm Sunday: 1 – 4pm

Effective October 1st, 2019

Monday to Friday only: 1:00 – 3:00pm

Please watch for further schedule updates.

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 Mullock 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.