

Presentation Sisters NL Canada - Archives



Our Presentation Sisters NL Archives, located at Presentation Convent in St. John's, NL Canada, houses a wealth of material that tells our Presentation story, from our beginnings with Nano Nagle in Ireland in the days of the 18th century Penal Laws, to our coming to NL in 1833, up to the present day. Nano Nagle, a valiant and venerable woman, saw education as the way out of poverty and oppression and particularly for her beloved Irish Catholics people. Hers is an amazing story of faith and courage, and of passion for the poor. In 1775 she founded the Sisters of the Presentation to enable her work to be carried forth into the future, never dreaming that one day it would span the entire globe and evolve in new and amazing ways, while remaining true to its essence.

[Scroll down to Page 2 to start viewing the complete postings for the following ...](#)

➤ ➤ ➤ **Archives Contact Information**, including NL Archives Association tribute to Sister Patricia Whittle, Archivist, who passed away on September 21, 2020 (Page 2-3)

➤ ➤ ➤ **“The Veiled Virgin” Sculpture Information** – Also see PDF link on Happenings page for “The Veiled Virgin” (Page 4-5)

➤ ➤ ➤ Link for our **Presentation Sisters NL 7-minute Video** that tells our evolving story from our beginnings in Ireland in late 1700’s to today and moving into a future that beckons us forward - created as part of International Zoom Gathering of Presentation People September 2020 (Page 6)

➤ ➤ ➤ **Two newly created videos of “Virtual Tours” of our Motherhouse** showing Drawing Room and Oratory (small Chapel) on Main Corridor and the main Chapel on the third floor. (Page 6)

Archives Contact Information - Presentation Archives NL Canada

Our PBVM NL 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 and resource for helping preserve our history, keeping it alive today and preserving it for generations to come.

Special Note: ***

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Sister Patricia Whittle, our long-time Archivist, on September 21, 2020, ironically and fittingly, on the anniversary of the arrival of our first 4 pioneering Sisters from Galway, Ireland, in 1833, at the invitation of NL Irish- born Bishop Fleming. Our sadness is lightened somewhat by our deep gratitude for the gift of Patricia's life and love and goodness and the gifts she has shared so generously and wondrously as Archivist in her deep dedication to helping preserve and share our evolving story over the years.

See below on the next page the NL Archives Association very touching Facebook tribute to Patricia on the day of her passing, its simplicity a tribute to Patricia's own simplicity....

Contact information:

Presentation Archives

NL Province of Union

Presentation Convent

Cathedral Square

170 Military Road

St. John's, NL Canada A1C 5L4

Telephone: 709-753-7291

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Archivist: Sister Patricia Whittle (Left) ***

Assistant Archivist: Sister Marilyn Doyle (Right)

Archives Technician: Miss Charlotte Chitaimani (Centre)



Facebook posting in tribute to Sister Patricia Whittle, as shared by Wanita Bates, former Assistant Archivist with us, on behalf of the ANLA (Association of Newfoundland Labrador Archives) on September 21, 2020, the day of her passing ...

I report this news with heavy heart. Presentation Sisters Archivist and my dear sweet friend, Sister Patricia Whittle pbvm, passed this morning. This sad day is also an auspicious day for the Sisters. September 21st, 1833 is the day the first Sisters arrived in St. John's from Ireland, for their first foundation in the new world. Sisters Perpetua Kennedy and Patricia Whittle have done amazing work to preserve the story of Presentation in Newfoundland. I am blessed to have worked with both.



"Unable are the loved to die, for love is immortality."

Emily Dickinson



Here are Sister Patricia Whittle and her classmates at St. Patrick's Convent School in the 1950s. Patricia Whittle is in the back row, second from the left.

Sister Patricia and Larry Dohey ...

"Two good ones" ...

(Larry Dohey, recently deceased, was renowned Archivist at The Rooms in St. John's, NL.



“The Veiled Virgin” Sculpture **(Also see PDF posting/link on our Happenings page.)**

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 absolutely an amazing work of art which has truly 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 regular tour schedule below.

NOTE: All tours cancelled indefinitely as of March 15, 2020 due to Covid-19 safety protocols.

See the next page for the story of “The Veiled Virgin”
as it appears on the souvenir card which is available from the Tour Guide.



Regular Tour Schedule

September 2019

Monday through Friday: 1 – 4pm

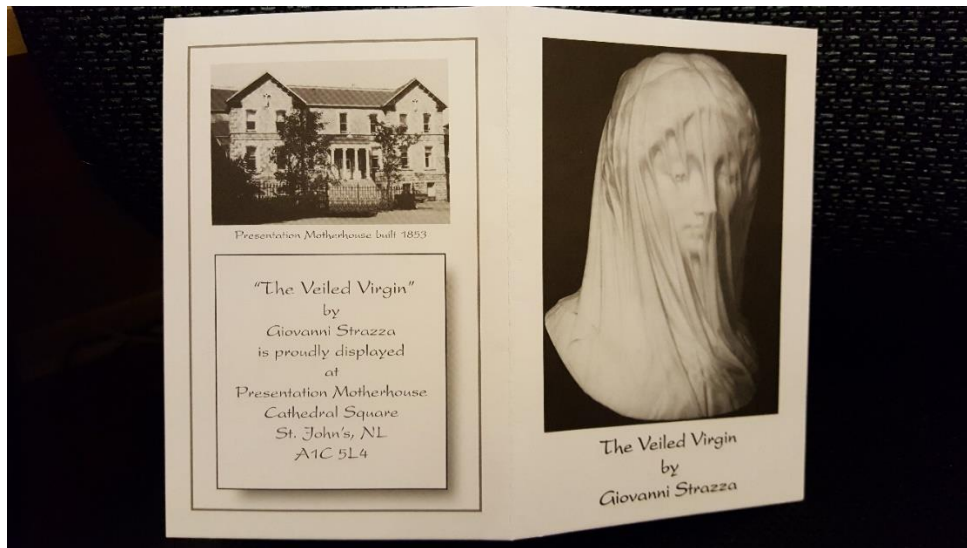
Saturday: 10:00 – 4:00pm Sunday: 1 – 4pm

Effective October 1st, 2019

Monday to Friday only: 1:00 – 3:00pm

~~ Please watch for further schedule updates. ~~

“The Veiled Virgin” Souvenir Card



The Story of “The Veiled Virgin” sculpture as it appears on the card ...

“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.

Video Links

➤ ➤ ➤ On September 23/24, 2020, a Gathering of Presentation People - Sisters, Associates, and other collaborators – from all over North America took place on Zoom, in keeping with Covid-19 health and safety protocols, instead of in person in Dubuque, Iowa, as had been the plan. As part of the presentations at the Gathering each of our seven participating Presentation Congregations had prepared a 7-minute video that would portray our many and varied stories as the humble foundations in Ireland expanded into the vast expanses of the world.



Our **NL Video** tells our evolving story from the beginning of time with the dream of our God, to our formal beginnings with Nano Nagle and her companions in Ireland in the late 1700's in the days of the horrific Irish Penal Laws which had so severely persecuted the Catholic people of Ireland, to the coming to NL of our first four Sisters from Galway in 1833 as the first foundation of Presentation Sisters outside of Ireland and numerous others after them, to the first young women from NL who had joined as Sisters and the many others through the years since, to today as we are now being led into a yet unknown future that beckons us forward.

Click this link to watch our [NL Video](#).

We invite you to enjoy it again and again and to share it freely.

➤ ➤ ➤ In recent years we had been engaged in a filming project in collaboration with John Fitzgerald of the Basilica Heritage Foundation and the Sisters of Mercy for the creation of a series of "Virtual Tours" of some of our sites of greater significant historical interest.

All agreed that the videos be appropriately shared in the public domain as part of the history of the Basilica, of the Mercy and Presentation Sisters, and of our Newfoundland Church.

Here are the links to two videos specific to us as Presentation Sisters, both spotlighting areas of our Motherhouse in St. John's.



- [Presentation Sisters Main Chapel](#)
- [Presentation Motherhouse](#) (Drawing Room and Oratory area on Main Corridor)

Explore! Play! EnJOY as you follow the spinning circle all around the screen with your mouse or your finger, depending on your device!