

The Restoration of Leduc Murals at St. Ninian Cathedral

Current Projects



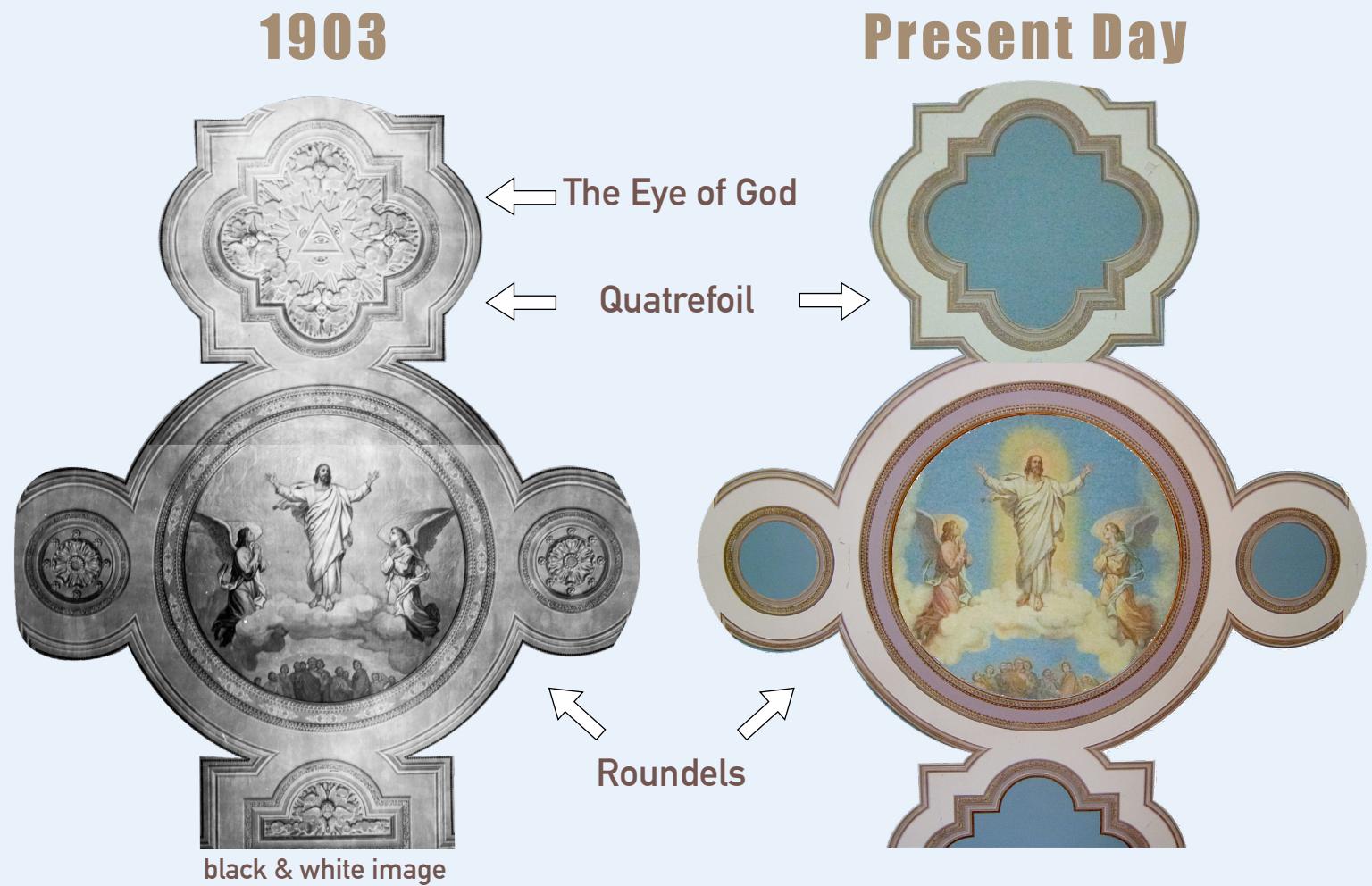
Next Projects



The Importance of the Restoration

St. Ninian Cathedral is fortunate to have an abundance of masterpieces by Ozias Leduc. Recognized by Canada as an artist of National Historic Significance; he is often referred to as Canada's 'Michelangelo of Church Painting'. Leduc and his two assistants spent two years on the interior decoration of St. Ninian Cathedral (1901-1903). Over the last 118 years Leduc's work has been painted over or touched up, obscuring his unique style of soft colours and depth perception. In 2006, a report by The Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) showed that most of the Leduc's work could be recovered. To date, restoration work has only been possible through the generosity of private donors.

Main Aisle - Nave Ceiling



The Importance of Restoring the Nave

Restoration of the nave ceiling where some of Leduc's most brilliant work lies, will have the greatest impact on the overall appearance of the church. The four large roundels that depict the Life of Christ have been overpainted and mask Leduc's original murals. The example above compares The Resurrection in 1903 to the present day work. The other ceiling decorations have been completely painted out, which include the Lamb of God, the Holy Spirit, the Eye of God and the Rosettes that show his brilliance at fooling the eye with faux painting.

What Needs to be Done

Restoring the nave ceiling presents a major challenge with the need to investigate the underlying plaster. This will require a consultation with a plaster expert before restoration of the artwork can go forward.

Sanctuary Vault

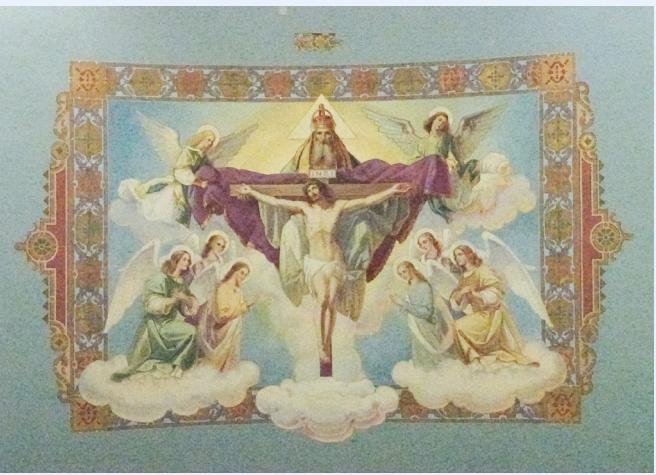


Leduc's God the Father and Angels to the left and right are completely hidden by several restorations; presently it has a canvas painting of the crucifixion, God, and angels covering it. The CCI Report indicates God the Father and Angels are visible and removal of the current linen painting is required to recover the paintings.

Leduc - God the Father



Current Painting



The restoration of the Sanctuary vault paintings will bring back Leduc's overall concept for the space. The visual impact will be similar to the angels holding the ten commandments which were uncovered in 2020.

Stations of the Cross



Entombment of Christ

Leduc painted the fourteen Stations of the Cross on linen in Quebec. These were transferred to St. Ninian and glued on the wall. The paintings have been overpainted and are very dirty. They require cleaning and removal of the wooden frame unveiling the original border.



During Cleaning
(left shoulder & chest)

Successful Projects

Before



After



Restoration 2015

St. Cecilia was the first of the fourteen saints to be restored and have her original architectural niche uncovered, revealing the garden which she appears to be stepping out of. This project provided us a baseline cost for each future saint.

There are three more saints that require restoration in 2022 and more funds are needed to complete this restoration.

Contact & Donation Info

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