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# 3D Digitization of Polish Cultural Heritage in the US



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## Abstract

Project “Research on the national cultural heritage of the Polish community in the US and the creation of digital memory collections” is implemented in 2022–2024 by the ECCC Foundation and financed by the program of the Polish Minister of Education and Science: “Science for Society”.

The aim of the project is to acquire and preserve in the digital space the cultural heritage of the Polish community in the US (including those threatened with extinction due to demographic reasons) and its popularization. The project envisages the implementation of scientific expeditions to the USA in order to 3D scan at least 15 churches built by the Polish community abroad, as well as the organization of three photographic exhibitions, the development and maintenance of an internet portal with the results of the work (including digital memory collections and historical data on objects) and the development and the publication of two scientific monographs (one in each of the areas of computer science and humanities).

The results of project are publish on website: [PolishHeritage3d.eu](http://PolishHeritage3d.eu) ([polskiedziedziectwo3d.pl](http://polskiedziedziectwo3d.pl)).

## Background

Demographic changes ⇒ economical problems ⇒ reduction in the number of parishes ⇒ necessity to close down churches

## Problem

Churches that represent great historical, artistic and cultural values for the Polish heritage in the US are being liquidated

## Project

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## Project goal

Preserve the appearance of liquidated churches in 3D digital technology and disseminate descriptions of their history and contents

## Methodology

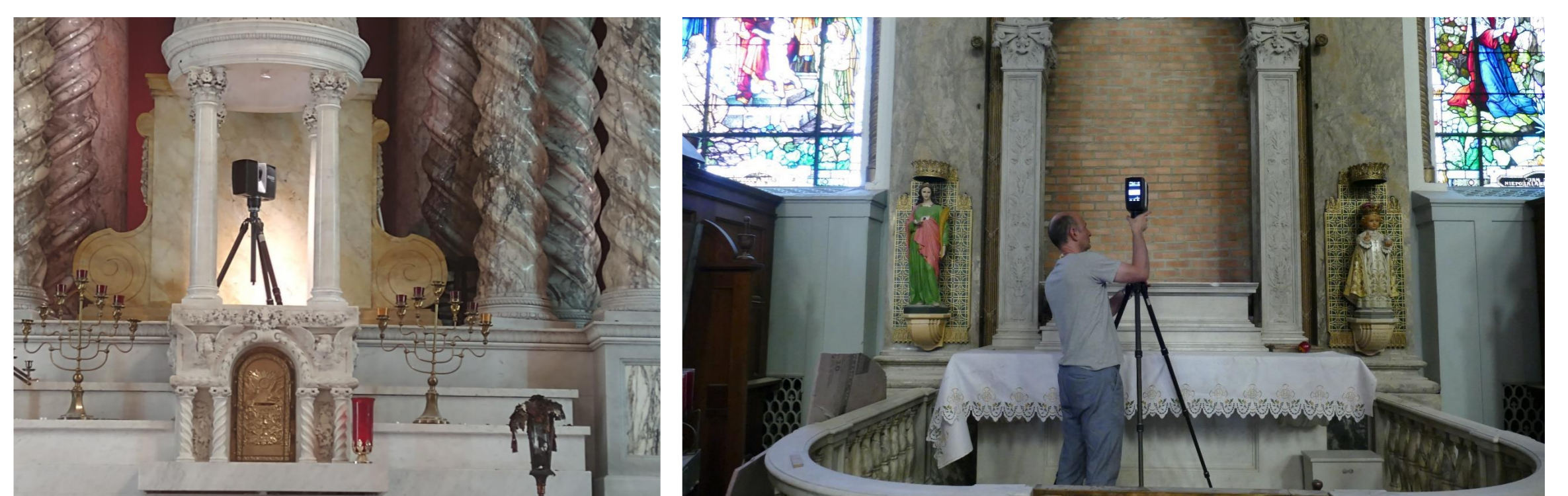
3D scanning of churches in the US (min. 15) and preparation of historical descriptions

## Additional project activities

- ▶ Various 3D models of churches and historical artifacts
- ▶ Very accurate models for permanent storage and subsequent research
- ▶ Online portal with project results
- ▶ Photographic exhibitions of completed works
- ▶ Scientific publications (monographs)
- ▶ Digital reconstruction of lost objects

## Case study: Church of St. Adalbert in Chicago, IL, US

Built in 1912–14. Closed in July, 2019. Scanned in July, 2023. Partially destroyed in August 2023.



## Conclusions

3D digitization of the appearance of churches makes it possible to preserve them for future generations

