

I would like each of you to talk about the effect that COVID has had on the way your council does things, the good and the bad. What have you learned? Please limit your oral report to 500 words.

Oral Report

Covid 19 has had a pleasant side effect for our London diocesan executive council and that is that we were able to save money.

Transportation costs are quite high for us as we have quite a large geographical area. In the past we had considered having online meetings or a hybrid thereof. The first consideration was that we were quite often snowed out at either our November or January executive meeting. The second more recent consideration was that of our Spiritual Advisor not being able to meet with us because of time constraints. Of course, an online meeting can never replace an in- person meeting, but as we have all found out with a little bit of education and experience it can be quite a wonderful tool.

The meetings were shorter. Who doesn't enjoy a shorter meeting? As we were meeting online there were no costs for meals or rent for room.

Because we were meeting online it cut back on the side-talk that happens at in person meetings. Without those distractions executive members were more focused and informed.

We were able to hold a Lenten retreat online open to all. Even though we rotate the location of the annual retreat sometimes it is just not feasible because of distance or transportation difficulties for members to attend. This past year everyone could do it from the comfort of their homes.

We also held meetings online to educate our members. We had four of these specifically about online membership and they were very well attended with an opportunity for all to ask questions and get help where needed. When the motion package came from National more online meetings were held online for each region to make sure that the issues were understood.

I personally think that communication was better than ever as we reached out to all our sisters, whether they usually attended meetings or not.

Our diocese went ahead with our elections which were already delayed by a year. Online voting was so wonderful and quick, with everyone being able to see the results as they came in. We were asked if we could put this method in place for future conventions, by many members.

A very huge bad effect of covid-19 was that we missed human contact. We missed hugging one another and just being in each other's presence. Of course, the grand celebrations that we had all prepared and planned for our 100th anniversaries had to go by the wayside.

Our memberships are down but surprisingly, not as much as we expected. We have an aging membership and some membership convenors found it difficult to collect dues because of covid restrictions.

I look forward to a time, soon, I hope when we can put covid-19 behind us and embrace one another.