

**Convention Report July 2021**  
**Organization**  
**Linda Squarzolo**

If you were around in the 1960s and were a Clint Eastwood fan, you may remember the movie, "**The Good, The Bad and The Ugly**". That title crossed my mind when I thought about the effects of this pandemic.

Being someone who is technologically challenged, I had to embrace GoToMeeting and Zoom in a way I never expected. How many other virtual meetings have there been? The fall and winter provincial meetings, a virtual meeting with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, a virtual Christmas party for the implementation committee, webinars and workshops and spiritual retreats, and even a virtual piano recital. I would classify these as "**The Good**".

During the last year, the provincial presidents-elect worked virtually and collaboratively to develop an orientation program to educate members about the League. This program is now available on the national website and each module can be either presented as a video or can be adapted using the power point presentation and speaker's notes. The information provided is valuable and necessary for anyone who holds an executive position at any level. So this would also be, "**The Good**".

It was so impressive to see how members and councils found creative ways to continue to reach out to members. Meeting in locations where they could socially distance, like church parking lots. Keeping in touch with members, with phone calls, delivering groceries and when they couldn't buy a greeting card, they made them and sent those. In my family, we always say that homemade cards are best because they are made with "LOVE". That was also "**The Good**".

Not having the personal time with family and friends was challenging. I missed the smiles, the hugs, the laughs, the camaraderie and just being together with all the good people who are so important to me. That was "**The Bad**".

Also, during this time was not being able to give a proper good-bye to loved ones who died. I lost an aunt, an uncle and cousin during the lockdown. I was able to attend two of the graveside prayer services but churches were closed. I also attended several virtual masses for friends or their loved ones. Mourning during this time was difficult. I rate it as "**The Bad**".

One thing about wearing a mask and staying home most of the time, was that it saved me having to apply makeup, not that I wear a whole lot. The only time I needed to put on my best face was for virtual meetings. The rest of the time I looked like the ogres Shrek and Fiona. Could we call that "**The Ugly**"?

Or what about going six months without a haircut. My hair hadn't been this long and shaggy since the hippie era, not that I was ever a flower child. But, that was definitely, "**The Ugly**".

As more of us get vaccinated and case numbers decline, we can move forward into a new way of thinking, a changed way of socializing and become better people for having had these experiences, and change our thinking to "**It's a Wonderful Life!**"