

Ontario Provincial Council -Oral Presentation
Marie-Theresa Lamphier – Treasurer
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How has Covid affected our Council and what have we learned

I believe that I can say with 99.9% certainty that everyone has been affected by this Covid-19 pandemic in one way or another...either family members have had it, people you know or even yourself. Such has been the case with us!

My husband and I, my children and grandchildren were spared of actually getting the virus, but it took a long time before we were able to spend any time seeing the grandchildren or receiving hugs or feeling comfortable getting together. Shopping was at a stand still, only going out for essentials and rarely doing that...my children were even offering to do the shopping for us and my siblings...because we're old (LOL) and at high risk with whatever ails us. In any case, I am very grateful to our children for taking care of us during this pandemic.

As far as my parish council, no meetings were held as there was no room big enough to accommodate the numbers that usually attend the meetings while social distancing. Our President, Helen Biales kept us in the loop by sending us funny anecdotes or videos on a regular basis and letting us know what was going on, at a regional and diocesan level. Our council was able to have a fundraiser with the permission of our parish priest, to sell Mums. This was able to be done by obtaining orders by phone contact and we were to pick them up at the church at the specified time while following prescribed safety protocols.

Still, we were able to have developmental training. The London Diocese hosted a Compassionate Community Care Training Seminar which was facilitated by Alex Schadenburg and his daughter. This consisted of two sessions over a 2 day period. These sessions focused on visiting the sick, the protocols for visiting the elderly, communications and things to be aware of and some things you could do to help. Seniors love to talk about their lives and their history and we were encouraged to document our own stories.

Our Regional also provided Windsor councils the opportunity of attending a couple of sessions on Estate Planning and Power of Attorney.. I found these sessions very informative especially with regards to probate - what and what not to do, and how to save time and money.. Of course all of this was done via zoom meetings.

As far as Provincial and my role as Treasurer, it was business as usual with setting up of meetings; issuing cheques, overseeing the investments, keeping the books and completing reports.. and then the cancelling of meetings as the virus lasted longer than we had anticipated. We did get together via GoTo Meetings, however, we missed in-person meetings, the hugs, and the conversations. We did continue to pray for each other and send each other little notes of encouragement as we went along. I for one, am so-o looking forward to getting together in person and to hug my Sisters in the League!

Respectfully submitted.