

Sharing the Covid-19 experience

As soon as the Spanish Government gave the order of confinement, we closed access to the monastery.

Not having a Chaplain of the Order, we found ourselves without the celebration of the Eucharist and access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the months of confinement.

We adapted the structure of the Sunday Assembly in Absence of a Priest (the ADAPs in Spanish) with Lauds, and we received Holy Communion every day. When we finished the Sacred Hosts given us, Our Mother Abbess, with the permission of the Sargent of the Guard of the Civil Guard, went to pick up more at the Convent of the Augustinian Fathers in Monteagudo; for decades now these priests have been coming to the monastery every day to celebrate the Eucharist, even though they never have had any official appointment as our chaplains. During Holy Week, we followed the Liturgy of the Vatican on TVE.

The reception of guests, the shop and the museum were also suspended, and with that, an important part of the economic income for the community. We managed to increase the on-line sales enough to clear out the products we already had in the shop. Our elaboration of noodles (pastas) also stopped functioning because the main point of sales was our monastic shop.

The situation of health here and hereabouts has been good; there was no outbreak of the virus in the community or among our neighbors in the town.

Our community life continued on as usual. The sisters took over the service in the kitchen, since our lady cook and the person that helps in the shop and the museum, not being able to leave their homes, were automatically suspended from their work, with a government grant. We cooperate making masks, a service that our Health Center requested of us.

Our need right now and our perspective for the future is spiritual attention.

We desire to have a Father Immediate in the Monastery of La Oliva, and that he would assure us of spiritual attention; for, as we said earlier, for decades now we have not had an officially named chaplain.