

**Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Spring Zoom Meeting, March 6, 2021, Oral Report**  
**Annette Chaplin, Communications Chair**

**Respond to the Holy Spirit!** If He moves you to think of someone, call... right away! Someone experiencing struggles may need you to uplift them.

**Year of St. Joseph:** Pope Francis has proclaimed a year of Saint Joseph from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021. St. Joseph is the patron saint of families, the dying, workers, the Universal Church, fathers, pregnant women, travelers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen and engineers. I suspect St. Joseph did such a good job of being a loving father and husband to Jesus and Mary, that God gave him many more responsibilities!

From the Vatican News website:<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html>: *In a new Apostolic Letter entitled **Patris corde** ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. The Holy Father wrote Patris corde against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."*

**FIRST STEP OPTIONS ... Surprise!!  
Pregnancies still happen during  
pandemics!!!**

The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on the First Step Options Pregnancy Resource Centre in Pembroke. Their biggest challenge is the reduction in revenue because they can't hold fundraising events. They do not receive government funding and raise all funds through churches, individuals and fundraising events.

First Step Options is a registered Christian charity which offers free pregnancy tests along with information about pregnancy options, and support by trained support workers, during and after pregnancy, including reproductive grief recovery for situations of stillbirth, miscarriage and abortion.



Among other things, it helps with material supports like diapers, formula, clothing and baby equipment. Last year, the Centre gave out \$3,000 in diapers and formula alone.

First Step Options is hoping to get more monthly donors because without fundraising events, a consistent monthly income ensures that programs and services can continue. Please consider being a foundation builder for this valuable pro-life organization.

Their web-site is here:  
<http://www.firststepoptions.com/wp/>