

Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada
Spring Meeting March 16, 2024 Zoom
Communications – Pat Weller

Local newspapers often give insight into the ongoing concerns of the day, concerns that may cause tensions in the social fabric of the day. A news story from December 21, 1923 was highlighted in *The Eganville Leader's* "100 Years" section and described the Most Reverend Monsignor French expressing his concern over the state of modern dance in the community. He did this at a Sunday mass in Renfrew's St. Francis Xavier's Church. The article reads partly as follows:

"(Monsignor French) said such dancing had developed many abuses, and that occasions were afforded for most glaring public scandal through the manner in which those dances had been performed by many persons." The story goes on to say that Monsignor French berated the congregation for their lack of protest in allowing these types of dances to continue in the community.

A google search on modern dance in the 1920s revealed such dances as the Turkey Trot, the Bunny Hug, the Grizzly Bear, and the Charleston. All of these dances were exuberant and loud. The article in *The Leader* gives no details as to which dances Monsignor French was referring but we do know they were offensive to him and considered of serious moral concern.

With each generation, societal norms change and as members of the League, we have to remind ourselves what is acceptable, what isn't, and what aligns with our faith. As far as the media is concerned, offensive material is all around us. It's up to us to be aware of content and make wise decisions for ourselves and our families.

As we move to the new League structure, issues concerning pornography, which have been under Communications Standing Committee, now fall under either Social Justice or Service. Our new national theme says Here I Am Lord, Send Me. But to do what? In this case, to protect the vulnerable and innocent from societal influences which undermine basic human dignity.