



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Ontario Provincial Council  
69<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Convention  
July 9-13, 2016**

**Communications Standing Committee Oral Report  
Anna Tremblay**

Saint José of Anchieta was born in the Canary Islands, educated in Portugal, and joined the Jesuits in 1551 at age 17. He dislocated his spine while he was young, and was sent to Brazil for its mild climate in the hope that his back would improve. It never did.

St José is an excellent saint for the communications standing committee for three main reasons:

First, for me at least, was his love of and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary as demonstrated in his poem of 4,172 lines, composed in her honour while he was held hostage by the Tamoyo tribe.

Secondly, he worked for 44 years in constant pain. Many of our members consistently carry out their CWL duties while battling serious health issues.

Finally, St José was an excellent communicator. In addition to authoring a dictionary of the Tupi language, he used letters, poetry, plays and drama to teach the Catholic faith – in Latin, Spanish, Portuguese and Tupi.

Today's communications chairperson uses directives, letter-writing campaigns, *Pornography Hurts* postcards, websites and Facebook pages to fulfill her mission.

Meekness is having the *right* or the *power* to do something but refraining from using that power for one's own benefit, using it only for the benefit of someone else. The biblical meaning of "meek" is "strength under control".

Moses is commended as "the meekest man on earth" yet he stood up to the most powerful leader in the world. Jesus described himself as "meek and lowly of heart" but he overturned the tables of the money changers in the temple!

Both men had great power, but they never used that power to advance themselves. Moses never entered the Promised Land and Jesus did not use his power to escape his crucifixion.

The communications chairperson lives this Beatitude when she uses the power of words, not for her own advantage, but in service to God and Canada as she keeps members informed, and websites and Facebook pages up-to-date.

I leave you with these words of Pope Francis which best exemplify the role of the communications chairperson: "Our primary task is to uphold the truth with love," and "only words spoken with love and accompanied by meekness and mercy can touch our ... hearts".