



1915-1922

Beginnings of the Daughters of St. Paul

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- 29 JUNE 1915** Teresa moves into Angela Boffi's home in Alba in order to collaborate with her in Fr. Alberione's project. In 1923, M. Thecla would write of her first companion: "That day we had a long talk together; we understood each other, came to an agreement and began to love each other as true sisters." In the division of duties, Teresa takes over the management of the "Workshop for Young Women" and the small book and religious articles shop that was opened towards the end of the year.
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- AUTUMN 1915** The young women's workshop and living quarters are transferred to a new location: Via Accademia, 5.
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- 15 SEPTEMBER 1915** Entrance of Clelia Calliano, the third member of the community.
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- AUGUST 1915-1918** In Alba, Teresa and her companions frequent the Catechetical League attached to Sts. Cosmas and Damian Church. There they attend the religious education courses organized by Canon Francesco Chiesa (1874-1946) and also teach catechism in the parish. They participate in the annual spiritual exercises and in the monthly retreats organized for the group. Starting in 1916, these courses of spiritual exercises are preached by Fr. James Alberione.
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- 29 JUNE 1916** Teresa makes her private temporary vows in the hands of Fr. Alberione.
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- 6 AUGUST 1916** Teresa takes the written examination for catechism teachers.
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- 12 NOVEMBER 1916** Works as a catechism teacher in Sts. Cosmas and Damian parish—a service she carried out until the end of 1918, when she left for Susa.
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- 13 MARCH 1917** 13-year-old Emilia Bianco (later known as Maestra Clelia) enters as the Congregation's first "aspirant".
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- 15 OCTOBER 1918** Meeting between Fr. Alberione and Bishop Giuseppe Castelli of Susa to discuss the relaunching of the weekly diocesan newspaper, "The Valsusa."
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22 OCTOBER 1918 Clelia Calliano dies, offering her life for the Good Press and for the future Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul.

27 OCTOBER 1918 Teresa takes the oral examinations for catechists.

18 DECEMBER 1918 Leaves Alba for Susa (Turin) with three young girls: Emilia Bianco, Mariuccia Prinotti and Caterina Petean. Angela Boffi, the young woman in charge of the community, had left for Susa two days earlier with the Pauline seminarian Bartolomeo Marcellino. In Susa, Teresa's role is that of "assistant." In 1961, M. Thecla would write: "The Theologian [Fr. Alberione] told us: 'You will remain [in Susa] for 3 or 4 years, working in silence. Then the Lord will do something with you.'"

12 NOVEMBER 1919 Fire breaks out in the community's residence in Susa. For two weeks, the young women are guests of the Third Order Franciscans and then of the "Casa della Beneficenza."

22 JULY 1922 Together with eight other women, Teresa makes her private religious profession and takes the name of Maestra Thecla. With this act, the Pious Society of the Daughters of St. Paul is initiated. On this occasion, Fr. Alberione appoints Teresa Superior General of the Daughters of St. Paul for a period of 12 years.
