



1929-1939

## First Foundations in Italy and Abroad

**26 DECEMBER 1929** M. Thecla sends her first circular letter to the communities of the Daughters of St. Paul.

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**JUNE 1931** Goes to Messina to help the sisters open a community there.

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**21 OCTOBER 1931** First FSP foundation outside Italy made in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

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**31 DECEMBER 1931** In Alba, the Daughters of St. Paul published the first issue of the magazine *Famiglia Cristiana* under the direction of Sr. Rosa Capra, FSP.

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**4 FEBBRAIO 1932** Fr. Alberione divides material goods (property) and areas of apostolate between the Society of St. Paul and the Daughters of St. Paul.

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**29 NOVEMBER 1932** M. Thecla draws up her will, leaving everything she possesses to the Pious Society of the Daughters of St. Paul.

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**NOVEMBER 1933** In Alba, the Daughters of St. Paul move from their house next door to the Society of St. Paul to their new residence in Borgo Piave, which will become their Motherhouse.

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**1 JANUARY 1934** Publication of the Congregation's internal news bulletin, *Eco di Casa Madre (Echoes from the Motherhouse)*, is begun. The Bulletin will make available to the sisters in the local communities the writings of the Founder, of M. Thecla, and news about the Congregation.

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**NOVEMBER 1934** In a circular letter, M. Thecla urges the Daughters of St. Paul to work for the spread of the League for the Daily Reading of the Gospel.

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**DECEMBER 1935** In keeping with the Founder's advice, M. Thecla introduces the rule of mandatory periodical correspondence between the sisters and the Superior General. According to this rule, all the sisters are to write to the Superior General for Christmas and for the Feast of St. Paul.

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**26 MARCH 1936** M. Thecla leaves from Genoa on the ship “Augustus” for her first trip abroad: a visit to the FSP communities of Brazil and Argentina. Returns by ship to Genoa on 27 August 1936.

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**11 NOVEMBER 1936** M. Thecla moves the FSP Generalate to Rome and with her.

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**28 JANUARY 1937** Leaves on the steamship “Rex” for a visit to the FSP community of New York, USA. Returns to Rome on 6 March 1937.

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**10 MARCH 1937** Transfers the novitiate and the group of FSPs studying philosophy and theology from Alba to Rome.

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**APRIL 1937** M. Thecla publishes in *Eco di Casa Madre* the program drawn up by the Founder concerning the foundation of the Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Accompanies the article with a few words of personal exhortation.

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**1938** Although in poor health, M. Thecla spends a period of time in Genzano (Rome) with the Pastorelle Sisters who are beginning their journey as an Institute.

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**AUGUST 1938** Writes a circular letter to the Daughters of St. Paul concerning the spirit of adaptation and universality that should characterize them.

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**13 JUNE 1939** Writes to Fr. Alberione regarding her opinion of “three different apostolic sectors” (the press, liturgical and pastoral apostolates) in a single Congregation, informing him as to the concrete results of this situation when lived on a daily basis (J. Alberione, *Letters to Maestra Thecla Merlo* [LMT], FSP Generalate, Rome, 1986, p. 79, Letter n. 53).

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