



«TO DO GOOD»: A LIFELONG YEARNING

The power idea that should spur us on is the thought of souls. We must be tormented by the yearning to reach people so as to bring them the word of truth and salvation. How many souls have never heard about God! And who will lead them to him if not we who have received so many graces from the Lord and who have in our hands extremely effective means of apostolate? (VPC 140).

The words of the *Regulations* of 1916 penetrated the heart of Maestra Thecla: "The Lord has brought you here so that you can become good and do good to others."

To do good: this was Maestra Thecla's great dream. It was the source of her enterprising spirit and it gave her the courage to embrace every instrument of social communication: films, catechetical filmstrips, records, magazines....

From her very first meeting with Fr. Alberione and, following this, during her apostolic "apprenticeship" in Susa, she clearly understood how powerfully the press can influence the thinking of people.



She was sustained by the ideal of the Pauline apostolate, captivated by its beauty, urgency and timeliness. She exclaimed: "God has given our small Congregation such a beautiful and vast apostolate! We carry out a sacred work!" (*ivi*).

Time and again she said: «We must use the most modern instruments to perform the apostolate».

Her advice provided everyone with guidance and resolved problems related to apostolic initiatives.

When financial difficulties made the sisters unsure of how to proceed, she counseled:

If it will do good, then do it and don't worry about the rest. If we have faith, divine Providence will help us. In carrying out the apostolate, let us seek first of all the good of souls, not financial gain.

She intuitively grasped the importance of using the cinema to do good. Sr. Assunta Bassi recalls:

I still remember how her eyes shone and all the attention and maternal concern she radiated when the movie *Abuna Messias* was being filmed (Alba, 1937-1938). And everyone is well aware of how enthusiastically she supported the project to produce 50 catechetical filmstrips (Rome 1953).

The daring and risky apostolic initiatives that Fr. Alberione proposed were accepted by Prima Maestra Thecla as expressions of the will of God. Speaking about the radio, she said:

The radio concretizes what God affirmed in Sacred Scripture through the voice of his prophet: «My words will resound throughout the world».

And with her customary decisiveness, she took on the radio apostolate because through this instrument the Gospel could be proclaimed even more extensively.