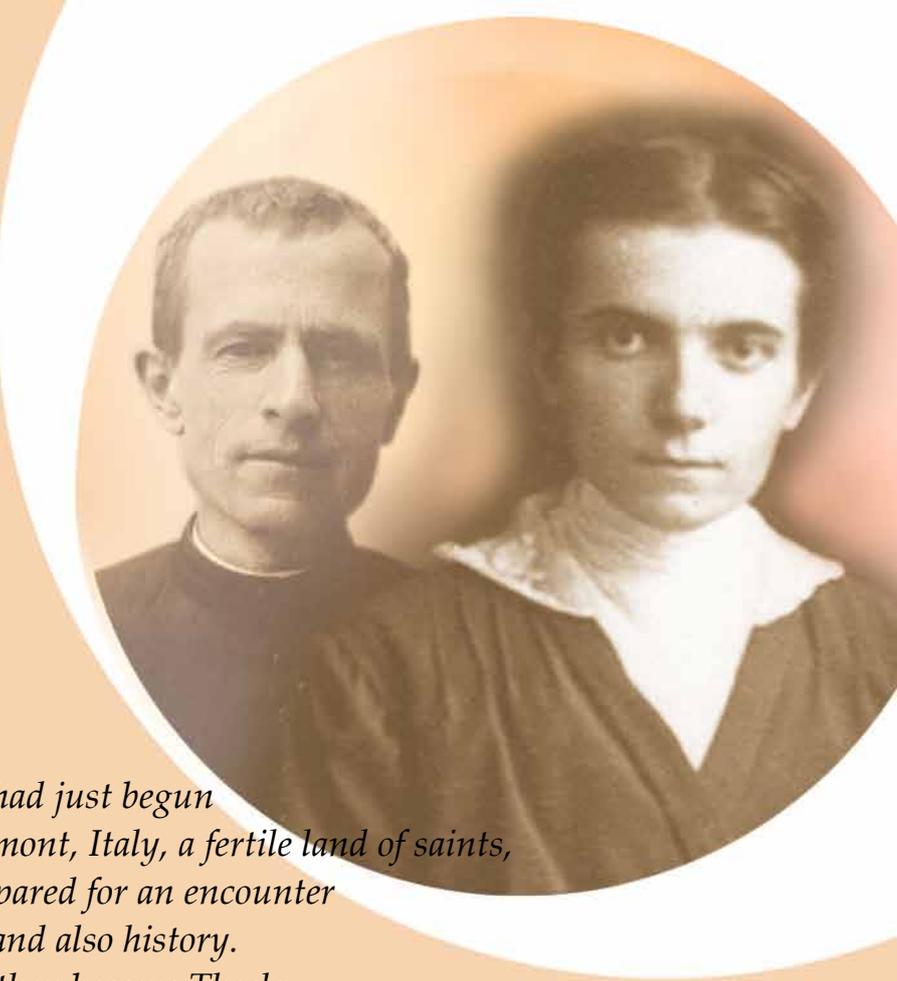


The Story of an Encounter

A Thousand Lives for the Gospel



The summer of 1915 had just begun when, in Alba, Piedmont, Italy, a fertile land of saints, a young woman prepared for an encounter that would change her life and also history. Her name was Teresa, and then became Thecla. Fr. Alberione chose her and opened unexpected horizons to her by asking her to participate in his project to flood the world with the Gospel.

Teresa was fascinated by this stupendous mission and that convergence of fundamental values gave rise to the first nucleus of a new religious family.

Humble and active, Teresa perfected her life in her encounters with the Lord, who permeated her existence. In constant communion with him, she continued her spiritual journey in the school of the one who had called her to collaborate with his plan to awaken the world to Christ. Thus she became the mother, guide and model of a band of apostles who shared her faith, ardor and courage: the ardor and courage to consecrate their lives to something new, to “speak about God” through all the technologies of communication. Always docile and open to new ideas,

*she fostered the spiritual and apostolic growth
of the large Pauline Family,
which produced many new and fruitful branches.*

*Through word and example, she fanned into a flame
the spiritual and apostolic thrust of all her daughters,
constantly visiting the Institute's communities,
scattered on all the world's continents,
to help the Word race ahead and conquer hearts.
She listened to, guided, corrected and consoled her sisters;
she promoted new initiatives.*

*She made the Founder's apostolic yearnings her own
and updated the charism by dedicating her whole being to it,
to the point of offering her life
so that all her daughters would become saints
and the apostolate would expand and reach many people.
It was this spiritual and apostolic dynamism
that prompted her to exclaim:*

"I wish I had a thousand lives to give to the Gospel!"

*Now, almost a hundred years after that encounter,
her life has been multiplied in our lives.*

*We are committed to attaining the same holiness she did,
because only if Christ lives in us
will our "going forth" to wherever God calls us
to witness to his Word and his love
enable us to rediscover the mystical dimension
of our apostolate
and work together to rekindle the flame of faith in others,
offering them the charity of the truth,
as we follow the paths of the new evangelization,
striving to reach the ends of the earth.*

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