

## Thecla Merlo

### A WOMAN WHO NEVER "RESISTED" THE SPIRIT

The Lord did what he wanted with her because as far as I could tell she never resisted his will.

She placed her life completely in the hands of God, his will! She was faithful to spiritual direction from the very beginning—from the moment she entered [the Institute] to the moment the Lord called her to eternal rest, to glory.

You know that in the last period of her illness her only words were: “The will of God! Whatever pleases the Lord! May your will be done, Lord!” She was always extremely docile.

In fact, in the beginning, the one who guided her said many times: “How good and obedient this daughter is!” The Lord placed a heavy responsibility on her shoulders in spite of her frail health. He gave her an important mission to carry out, namely: to prepare souls—that is, her companions—for consecration to the Lord.

During her life, Prima Maestra was always ready for everything the Lord disposed for her. She did not practice obedience in just a general way: once she understood that something was God’s will for her, she obeyed—no matter what the situation. She was always ready for everything.... On the one hand, she had to be docile to what the Lord was asking of her personally, and on the other hand, she had to be docile to what was revealed to her day by day—that is, the things she had to do to give the Institute a firm foundation and help it grow.

How obedient she had to be! She was always enlightened by God; always ready to do what the Lord revealed to her.

*Blessed James Alberione*

