

Blessed Chiara Badano

- b. 1971, d. 1990 (18 yrs. old), Feast Day: October 19th
- At age nine, she joined the *Focolare Movement*, (pronounced *foe-coe lar-ay*, the Italian word for hearth) an international organization that seeks to bring unity between Christians and non-Christians.
- While a member of the organization, the leader gave Chiara the nickname “Luce,” which is the Italian word for “light”.
- Chiara was given this nickname because if one takes the meaning of her first name (Chiara = clear) and her nickname (Luce = light) it makes “clear light”. This was because her love for Jesus showed from her like a clear light.
- When she was sixteen, she noticed a pain in her shoulder while she was playing tennis. Upon further investigation, it was found that she had a very rare and painful form of bone cancer.
- After her diagnosis, Chiara made a decision that she would offer up all the suffering that she would have in this illness, specifically for young people struggling with faith. She even rejected any painkillers so that she could consciously offer up the pain.
- While she was in the hospital, she befriended another cancer patient who was also suffering with depression. Even though it was very painful for Chiara, she would go on many walks with this person to try to help comfort that person.
- There is a story that, during a painful medical procedure, Chiara was mysteriously visited by a “lady” with a beautiful smile who comforted her and filled her with courage.
- Before she died, she told people not to cry for her at her funeral because she would be with Jesus.
- Patron Saint of young people, especially young people who struggle with their faith.



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