

MY STORY

BL CHIARA BADANO

Hi, I'm Chiara Badano and I'm a Blessed, which means I'm on the way to becoming a canonised Saint! I grew up an only child to my wonderful parents and received a Christian education from my family. My family taught me good values, and I tried to practice these from as early as four years old. One day my Mother asked me to give some of my toys to those less fortunate than myself, so I began giving all my best toys to the poor. When I was nine years old I joined a youth ministry called the 'Focolare Movement' and this helped me grow a lot in my faith. Through this ministry I learnt a lot about how to direct my choices to solve daily large and small choices through living the Gospel. I learnt to live my life with a smile and sharing joy to all who I encountered. I made sure I was attentive to everyone, from the grandparents in my community to the marginalized and homeless that I met on the way home from school. I love playing sports, particularly tennis, swimming and skating. I also loved mountain climbing and spending time in God's creation.

When I was seventeen years old I became very ill which took all my friends by surprise. I was tempted to see this as a bad thing, but Jesus gave me the grace to remain joyful and use my illness to help serve others. Many of my friends would come and visit me in hospital, often seeking advice for their own lives, and I would remain joyful and tell them about Jesus. The most important thing I did in my life is share the message of the Gospel of Jesus, I simply couldn't contain the joy that this message gave me and gives to everyone I meet.

