
THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," (Mk 10:14)

A Summer of Saints!

Saint Clelia Barbieri was born in 1847 in Bologna, Italy to a family of poor hemp farmers. Her father, Giuseppe, died during a cholera epidemic that swept through Italy when Clelia was 8 years old. Without him, Clelia, her mother, two sisters and her old grandfather were faced with a very difficult future. However, Clelia was a consolation to her mother and assisted her greatly by learning how to use a loom. She would weave hemp to help earn income for the family. From a very early age Clelia loved Jesus with all her heart! She learned all she could about her Catholic faith from her mother and her parish priest. After Clelia learned how to read and write, her very favorite book to read was her catechism because it taught her about God and encouraged her on the way of becoming a Saint! When she was 15 years old, her parish priest asked her to teach parish children about Jesus. Around this time period Clelia turned down at least two marriage proposals and told Jesus that she wanted to belong only to Him. When Clelia was 20 years old, she was inspired to gather a small group of young women to join her in performing charitable good works: teaching children and adults about Jesus, aiding the sick and helping the poor, especially sewing clothes for them. She wanted to form a religious community that even the poorest young ladies could enter. Most orders required young women to have a "dowry" (money to bring with them) before they could become a nun. Amidst the founding of her community called "Sisters Minims of Our Lady of Sorrows" Clelia became very ill with tuberculosis. She died at the age of 23, the youngest founder of a religious order in the history of the Church. Clelia's last words were: "...I shall remain with you and I shall never abandon you!"
Saint Clelia, pray for us!

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"We are kids telling kids about Jesus!"



Saint Clelia Barbieri

Saint Clelia's last words were: **"Be brave because I am going to Paradise but I shall remain with you and I shall never abandon you!"** And Clelia really meant it! Exactly one year after her death, her Sisters testified that during community prayer, they suddenly heard the sound of a high-pitched, beautiful heavenly voice, accompanied by a harmonious choir, praying with them. At times the voice sang solo and at other times it harmonized with the choir. There are houses of Clelia's order all over the world and the "heavenly voice" continues to sing. In the communities of Usokami and Wadkanchery, the Sisters hear Clelia's voice praying with them in Swahili and Malayalam. When they pray in Latin, Clelia prays in Latin. Many witnesses have given sworn testimony of this experience. Pope John Paul II canonized Clelia Barbieri on April 9, 1989.