

Prayer

Father,
who shaped in Armida
– with the heart of Your Son –
a spirit capable of orienting
young people of all times
toward the full experience
of Christ and the Church
through “Eucharist,
Apostolate, Heroism”,
grant us to continue
to be faithful to her message.
Foster our hope
for her ecclesial glorification
and, through her intercession,
support us in our needs.

Amen

**Comitato nazionale di canonizzazione
della beata Armida Barelli**

c/o Azione Cattolica Italiana – Presidenza nazionale
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BLESSED
*Armida
Barelli*

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

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- 1882 December 1st. Armida was born in an industrious middle-class family in Milan; she was not educated to religious values.
- 1895/1908 She studied at a Swiss boarding school for 5 years; she learnt to know and love the Lord. Back home, she did not think of a family of her own and committed herself to help orphans and the children of prisoners.
- 1910 Meeting with Father Agostino Gemelli, Franciscan.
- 1917 1st Friday in January. Consecration of soldiers to the Sacred Heart.
- 1918 February 17th. At Cardinal Ferrari's request, she started the feminine youth of the Catholic Action in Milan.
- 1918 September 28th. Benedetto XV appointed her National President of the Feminine Youth, which she promoted throughout Italy.
- 1919 November 19th. With Fr. Gemelli, she began a Family of lay women consecrated to God.
- 1921 November 15th. With an Apostolic Letter, Benedetto XV established the "Society of the Friends of the Catholic University".
- 1921 December 7th. Card. Ratti inaugurated the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart. She served as treasurer in the Promoting Committee.
- 1923 September 17th. At Xi'an (China), foundation of the Institute Benedetto XV from which the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart – continuing today – was derived.
- 1927/1929 She organized the "Opera della Regalità di Nostro Signore Gesù Cristo", to spread liturgical life and Christocentric spirituality.
- 1946 Pius XII appointed her Vice President General of the Catholic Action for a three-year term.
- 1920/1950 She travelled throughout Italy several times to spread the Feminine Youth (which reached one million five hundred thousand members). She organized national and international conventions and congresses, social activities, pilgrimages, countless cultural and educational courses. She stimulated the women's Catholic activity in the International Leagues.
- 1949 She experienced a long disease - which began in autumn – with great faith, with a spirit of penance, in prolonged prayer and in offering – especially – for the future Faculty of Medicine of the Policlinic Gemelli, in Rome.
- 1952 August 15th. Her life ended in Marzio (Varese), on the feast of the Assumption.
- 2022 April 30th. Beatification in Milan.