

Blessed Carlo Acutis
A Young Man's Devotion to the Holy Eucharist



Blessed Carlo Acutis, Servant of God, was born on May 3rd, 1991. His parents were lukewarm Catholics, his mother having only been to church 3 times in her life, for her First Communion, her Confirmation and her wedding.

In Milan, where Carlo grew up, his parents were told by their priest, his teachers, and classmates that, "Your son is special". His mother said that he would ask to go into any church they passed by to greet Jesus. His questions were so profound and deep that his mother could not answer them.

At the age of 7, on his own, he requested to receive his First Communion. Their priest questioned him and found him more than ready. After that day, in a private ceremony, he never missed daily mass and the rosary. He often stayed after mass in adoration. He would drag his mother to mass as well and she has said he was the cause of her conversion. He called the Eucharist his "highway to heaven". He said, "If we get in front of the sun, we get a suntan, but when we get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints." He said he could not believe how people would wait in long lines for a rock concert. If they knew what awaited them in the Eucharist, there would be long lines to get into our churches.

Growing up, he loved to play video games and was very adept at the computer. He did computer programming and created websites. Convinced he would die young he kept very active. He played sports, loved music and being with his friends. He had a knack for putting people at ease. He would invite his friends to mass and would talk to anyone about Christ. He loved to catechize all those around him and was always trying to come up with new ways to do it. He often defended other children at school, especially those that were disabled. He worked in soup kitchens and gave as much as he could to the poor.

His goal was holiness and he had what he called his tool kit for Sainthood; Daily mass and Communion, the rosary, Adoration and Confession. He felt that the Sacred Heart of Jesus was alive in the host and he offered up sacrifices for the sins and offenses committed against the Sacred Heart.

Carlo asked his parents to take pilgrimages and visit holy sites, especially those of Eucharistic miracles.

Missionary of New Media

Of the many notable websites, Carlo created, was one dedicated to young saints. He was interested in those who could achieve holiness quickly. On his website are all the websites of the exhibitions he created, including the one on Eucharistic Miracles.

In 2002 Carlo went with his parents to hear a talk given by a priest on the Eucharist. This talk would be the inspiration for his exhibition on Eucharistic miracles. He said, "They must be able to see." Carlo wanted people to understand that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist by showing the moments throughout history when the Eucharist visibly became flesh and blood. He wanted to show people that the Eucharist was truly his great friend, Jesus.

Immediately after hearing this talk, Carlo began dragging his parents across Europe to take photographs of the miracles. He documented all 136 miracles approved by the church. After two and a half years, the exhibition was ready. He had catalogued all the miracles in world history. Right away, dioceses around the world began requesting the exhibit.

He had researched these 136 miracles and collected them into a virtual museum. He not only created the website to house this virtual museum, but panel presentations as well, that have traveled around the world. The introductory panel states, "In the United States alone, thanks to the assistance of the Knights of Columbus, The Cardinal Newman Society and The Real Presence Association, with the support of Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, it has been hosted in thousands of parishes and over 100 universities. The exhibit has been to Russia, Latin America and even China. Carlo's exhibition went around the globe, visiting the places he never got to visit in his life. You can see his panels at Miracolieucaristici.org

Blessed Carlo-A Death too Soon

In early October, 2006, Carlo fell ill. His diagnosis was leukemia. A few days before, Carlo had told his parents: "I offer what I will have to suffer to the Lord for the Pope and for the Church, to skip purgatory and go straight to Heaven. Carlo died on October 12th, 2006. He was buried at Assisi, at his request because of his love for St. Francis. His mother said, on the day of his funeral, "I have never seen people like this before." People told her stories of things Carlo had done that she had never heard. Having reached so many through his international exhibit and internet ministry, Carlo's death had an immediate impact. The family received thousands of letters and emails.

Carlo lived deeply immersed in the world of today, mastering computer programming, website creation and film editing. But despite his immersion in media, he used it only for good, to spread the Gospel to as many as he could. He will most likely become a Patron of the Internet. He remains an inspiration to teenagers who struggle to be holy and "normal."

Carlo left us many beautiful quotes. They are youthful and profound at the same time.



To be always close to Jesus, that's my life's plan.

All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies.

Continuously ask your guardian angel for help. Your guardian angel has to become your best friend.

Our compass must be the Word of God, by which we must always measure ourselves.

Our goal must be the infinite and not the finite. The Infinity is our homeland. We are always expected in Heaven.

I am happy to die, because I lived my life without wasting a minute of it on anything displeasing to God.

Pope Francis beatified 15 year old Carlo on October 10th, 2020, the first millennial to be named Blessed.

Prayer to Blessed Carlo

O God, thank you for giving us Carlo, model of life for young people, and a message of love for all. You made him fall in love with your Son, Jesus, making of the Eucharist his "highway to heaven".... attend especially to the poor, whom he loved and helped.