

October 12

St. Carlo Acutis

(1991 - 2006 Italy)

Carlo Acutis was born in London on May 3, 1991, into an Italian family. His parents were on a business trip in London when he was born but after a few months they returned to Italy and settled in Milan. His parents were Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano.

His parents were Catholic but not practicing Catholics. Despite this, Carlo showed a love of his faith and prayed in churches. He often asked his mom to stop by the churches to greet Jesus and bring flowers to Our Lady.

During family trips, he would ask his parents to visit the churches and shrines in the regions they were passing through. As a young boy he had a great devotion to the Eucharist and love our Lady, who he described as the only woman in his life.

His love of the Eucharist led him to ask for his first Holy Communion at the age of seven. The Holy Mass took place at the Ambrosian Monastery in Perego on June 16, 1998. From then until his death, Carlo went to Mass every day. He once said: "if we go to the Eucharist every day, we can go straight to Paradise." He also used to say: The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven.

He prayed the rosary every day, went to confession once a week and taught catechism to the children in his parish. He said that when he prayed, he didn't speak in words, he just lied in Jesus' chest as St. John the Apostle at the Last Supper.

He was just like the other children and young kids. He loved soccer and to play video games. But he only played video games one hour a week because he felt that he needed to spend more time in prayer and to spend time with others.

Carlo was also technological savvy and spent many hours in front of the computer. He devoted his free time to visiting the elderly. He also saved money to give to the needy. He helped the homeless. He volunteered in sub-kitchens and helped as a catechist.

He often said, "happiness is looking at God" and sadness is looking at yourself. With his first savings, he purchased a sleeping bag for a beggar he always saw on his way to Mass. His mother, Antonia, said that Carlo was her salvation. Thanks to him she began to take her faith more seriously. When he was four years old, he was already asking his mom to take him to church because he wanted to blow kisses to Jesus in the tabernacle. To be able to answer Carlo's questions about the faith, his mom began to take some religion classes.

Since Carlo was very smart with computers, he began to put together an exhibition on the Eucharistic miracles. This took him two years of research and travel with his parents. His work presented a total of 136 Eucharistic miracles recognized by the Catholic Church with photographs and descriptions. The exhibition was put into a website but later it took shape in material form, and it spread all around the world. In the United States alone, it has reached many parishes and universities.

It has also reached some of the most famous shrines, such as Fatima, Lourdes and Guadalupe. For this reason, he has been considered the patron of the youth and computer programmers and the first millennial saint.

One of his family household employees, Rajesh, was Hindu. A deep friendship grew between him and Carlo, to the point that Rajesh converted to Catholicism and asked to receive the sacraments.

Some of Carlo's famous phrases are:

- To always be close to Jesus, that is my life plan
- All people are born as originals, but many live as photocopies
- The only thing we must ask God for, in prayer, is the desire to be holy
- Our goal must be the infinite and not the finite. The infinity is our homeland
- The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven

Carlo felt ill with Leukemia in October 2006, when he was just 15 years old. When he went into the hospital, he said to his mother that he was not going to be coming out of the hospital. He also told his parents that he was offering his sufferings for the Pope and for the Catholic Church and so that he might bypass purgatory and go straight to heaven.

Carlo was always calm and cheerful. He knew he was going to die but he wasn't sad. Before he died, he made a video saying he wanted to be buried in Assisi because he had a great devotion to St. Francis of Assisi. That is why his remains were transferred there in 2019.

Three days after the diagnosis, on October 12, 2006, on the feast of Our lady of the Pillar, he died in San Gerardo Hospital in Monza, Italy. He died like a saint. On the day of his funeral, many people attended. They were beggars he helped and the elderly that Carlo visited.

In February 2020, a miracle was attributed to Carlo Acutis' intercession, which led to his beatification. He was beatified in Assisi on October 10, 2020.

He was canonized by Pope Leo XIV on Sunday, September 7, 2025 along with St. Pier Giorgio Frassati in St. Peter's Square, Vatican City.

St. Carlo Acutis, pray for us that we may love our Eucharistic Lord and Our Lady with all our hearts!

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