



PRAYER FOR CARLO'S INTERCESSION

(approved by Carlo's home diocese of Assisi)

O God our Father,
we thank you for giving us Carlo,
a model of life for young people,
and a message of love for all.
You made him fall in love with your son Jesus,
making the Eucharist his "highway to heaven."
You gave him Mary as a beloved mother,
and you made him, through the Rosary,
a cantor of her tenderness.
Receive his prayer for us.
Look above all upon the poor, whom he loved
and assisted.
Grant me too, through his intercession, the grace
that I need (mention your intention).
And make our joy full, raising Carlo among
the saints of your Church,
so that his smile shines again for us
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Ways to Emulate Saint Carlo

Carlo Acutis will be the first millennial to be canonized and as such is a person uniquely suited for our imitation. There are many ways we can emulate Carlo and in doing so increase our own faith. Here are five:

1 Carlo always greeted the poor and homeless with dignity. When you see someone new by the side of the road, take a moment to greet them, learn their name, and offer a prayer on their behalf.

2 Carlo's devotion to the Real Presence was the center of his life. Take a page from Carlo's book and add adoration to your weekly schedule: Even if you can't make a holy hour, give a holy half-hour a try.

3 Carlo was careful with his time. Take stock of how you're spending your time, energy, and resources. Are there ways that you can grow in holiness by adjusting your priorities even a little?

4 Carlo brought his family and many friends back to the Church. Intercede with prayer for your family and friends regularly, remembering that God hears your words like he did Carlo's.

5 One of the most famous quotes from Carlo is, "All are born originals, but many die as photocopies." Take some time to meditate with this truth, asking God to remind you of the gifts and talents that are uniquely yours and where you are in danger of becoming a photocopy.

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THE FIRST MILLENNIAL SAINT

Carlo Acutis



6/25

Photos courtesy Carlo Acutis Center.

“Dio, non io”
 (“God, not me”)

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Carlo Acutis is the first millennial to be raised to the honor of the altar. His example is profoundly relevant to those of us trying to live the Gospel in a world where technology is ubiquitous, temptations abound, and constant distraction is the norm, not the exception. A modern-day evangelist, Carlo lived a life of deep faith and heroic virtue, clearly understanding the famous quote attributed to Saint Francis, “Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary use words.” In Carlo’s life, and his death, Catholics of all ages and stages can find strength and inspiration for their walk to sainthood.

A Normal Kid

Carlo Acutis was born May 3, 1991, in London, England. Soon after his birth, the family moved back to their native country of Italy. Carlo grew up in Milan, doted on by his parents and grandparents.

In many ways Carlo was a perfectly normal kid. He watched television (detective shows were his favorite). He played video games (Carlo owned a Nintendo, a PlayStation, and an Xbox). He dressed up for Halloween (one year he was Spiderman). He played the saxophone and enjoyed soccer games. He loved animals (the family always had dogs). But as he began to grow closer to Jesus, Carlo began to stand out.



The Acutis family was not particularly religious, though they were culturally Catholic. His mother often says that she only attended three Masses in her life before Carlo brought their family back to the Church: her first Communion, her confirmation, and her wedding.

All that changed though once her son became curious about the Catholic Faith. As Carlo began asking questions, Antonia recognized a lack of coherence in her own life. She believed what the Church taught, but she didn’t understand it, and she didn’t know how to explain to her son why their family wasn’t fully living out the Gospel. Antonia dove into learning about the Church’s theology. In striving to support and encourage Carlo’s growth in any way she could, she found her own faith strengthened.

Devotion to the Eucharist

As a young boy, Carlo developed a deep devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist. His love for the Eucharist was the cornerstone of his life. After receiving his first Communion on June 16, 1998, Carlo attended Mass daily. Every time he passed a Catholic Church, he insisted on stopping in to pay a visit to Jesus in the tabernacle. Often, he would wonder aloud why there were so many people willing to wait in line for hours to attend a concert but so few waiting in line to receive the Body of Christ.

In addition to daily Mass, Carlo read Scripture every day. He also prayed the Rosary regularly and encouraged his family to make pilgrimages as often as they could to shrines throughout Italy. Rooting himself in the sacraments and God’s word, Carlo grew in virtue and found the strength to live out the mission God

“The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on earth we will have a foretaste of heaven.”

— Attributed to Carlo Acutis



had for him. Much like Saint Thérèse, Carlo’s path to heaven was one of small acts of big faith. Carlo’s witness is powerful because it is so ordinary. He was not a miracle worker, monk, or mystic. He was a teenage boy who sought the Lord with his whole heart in the regular occurrences of his daily life.

Carlo’s faith bore fruit in many areas of his life, including his friendships. Those who knew him were invariably touched by his kindness, which extended beyond classmates and friends his own age to include the elderly, the poor, and those of other faiths. Carlo treated every person he encountered with the dignity they deserved, speaking truth with love, never judging, and always pointing to Christ. Because of this, he was often a listening ear to friends who were struggling.

As a result of his own deep devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, Carlo was disturbed by the fact that many Catholics do not believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Even his mother tells the story that she had a “Protestant mentality” about the Eucharist, thinking it was just a symbol, nothing more. Carlo opened her eyes to the truth through stories he learned about Eucharistic miracles. His unwillingness to keep his faith to himself changed his mother’s heart and opened her eyes to the truth of the Eucharist.

Tech Savvy

A millennial born in the digital age, Carlo enjoyed and was particularly skilled at using technology. He took inspiration from Steve Jobs who once said, “Your time is limited, so don’t waste it living the life of someone else.” Taking this lesson to heart, Carlo was inspired to use his gifts for the glory of God.

Realizing that the video games he enjoyed could be highly addictive, Carlo limited himself to two hours a week. He also chose to play with friends instead of



ST. CARLO ACUTIS

- Born: May 3, 1991
- Died: October 12, 2006
- Beatified: October 10, 2020
- Canonization: September 7, 2025

alone so that he could use the time to build relationships (and evangelize his friends through these encounters).

But instead of giving up technology entirely, Carlo chose to turn a source of temptation into a powerful tool for evangelization. He taught himself coding in order to create a website on Eucharistic miracles. His work has since become an exhibition that has traveled to five continents and changed millions of lives. Carlo also worked with local religious orders, creating websites to help them evangelize and grow.

A typical teenager, Carlo was buried in jeans and a pair of Nike sneakers.

On October 2, 2006, during his sophomore year of high school, Carlo became sick with what his family originally thought was the flu. His condition quickly deteriorated, and his parents took him to the hospital. He was diagnosed with acute M3 leukemia, a cancer with a high mortality rate.



In a tremendous amount of pain, Carlo offered his suffering for the Church. Those who saw him in the hospital were touched by his faith and the peace with which he approached death. On October 10, Carlo received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and received Jesus in the Eucharist for the last time. The next day he slipped into a coma, and he died on October 12, 2006.