



Who is 15-year-old Blessed Carlo Acutis who planned and developed the International “Eucharistic Miracles” Exhibit?

Carlo Acutis was an Italian teenager like most of the youth of our day. He was known as a computer whiz, who liked to play soccer, video games, and the saxophone. He enjoyed spending time with his many friends. Carlo was cheerful, outgoing and fun-loving.

What set Carlo apart was that he loved God and made Jesus and Mary the center of his life. Beginning at an early age, he developed a deep devotion to the Eucharist and attended Mass every day, being realistic about the times in which he lived and realizing he needed this grace to overcome temptations, sin and the various struggles of life. He also loved to frequent Eucharistic adoration. Carlo called the Holy Eucharist his “highway to Heaven.” This teen believed that if Catholics recognized the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus, their lives would be transformed.

Carlo was committed to teaching the Faith at the parish and serving in soup kitchens. He also went around the city giving money to homeless people. “This was Carlo’s secret: He had a constant, intimate friendship with Jesus. He wanted everyone he encountered to have this kind of relationship [with Christ] like he did.” (by Carlo’s mother)

Carlo became interested and adept at computer programming and video making. With these interests and fascination with the potential for the profound good that social media could bring, he began creating a website of all of the Eucharistic Miracles of the world. Carlo and his family traveled to many of these Eucharistic Miracle sites and photographed them to develop a virtual exhibit that would display these incredible “gifts” from God in order to help strengthen the faith of people.

As a teenager Carlo was diagnosed suddenly with leukemia and died in 2006 at the age of 15. Carlo has already passed two of three required steps for canonization - the path to sainthood: 1) “Venerable” recognizes a person has lived a heroically virtuous life. 2) They are recognized as “Blessed” when a miracle has been attributed to their intercession. 3) “Canonization” requires a second miracle after being declared blessed. The second and third steps each require a miracle through the intercession of this person and are seen as God’s confirmation that this person is indeed in Heaven with Him.

Questions for reflection:

“The principal fruit of receiving the Eucharist in Holy Communion is an intimate union with Christ Jesus.” “The Catholic Church has always offered and still offers adoration to the Sacrament of the Eucharist, not only during Mass, but also outside of it,... for the solemn veneration of the faithful...” (Catechism, paragraphs 1391, 1378)

1. In what way does the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis inspire you?
2. “To always be close to Jesus, that’s my life plan.” (Quote of Blessed Carlo Acutis) What is a phrase that captures your life plan that you might say to yourself often?
3. How realistically can you add the practice of Eucharistic Adoration to your life, in a simple way?

Ideas:

1. Plan a Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit, which presents a selection of the main Miracles of the Eucharist approved by the Catholic Church. The Exhibit was planned and developed by Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Ann Lankford, Director of the Office for Catechesis & Evangelization