



Carlo's unassuming love for God and neighbor could not help but inspire those around him.

Many returned to faith in God, the first of which were his own parents. But his Indian tutor and nanny, Rajesh

Mohur, also came to know Jesus through his six-year-old charge. Rajesh's father was a Hindu priest, but with his father's death and the family's financial difficulties, Rajesh began to pray to the Hindu gods for answers. At his new job in the Acutis home, Rajesh found a real friend in his young student. "Slowly, slowly," Rajesh recalled, "he used to tell me the importance of baptism and so many other things.... and I could see the living God." Carlo invited his tutor to pray the rosary with him at the end of each day, and they talked about the Eucharist, Our Lady, and the saints. "He knew the Catechism of the Catholic Church almost by heart and explained it so brilliantly that he managed to excite me about the importance of the sacraments." Four years after meeting Carlo, Rajesh asked for baptism. The following year Rajesh's mother visited the Acutis home, and Carlo would spend hours talking with her about the faith in English. After returning home, she too became Catholic and began visiting the sick, inspired by Carlo's story of the shrine at Lourdes.

Carlo was a gifted computer programmer. He gained fluency in Java and C++ script and designed websites for his parish and school, helping others with technical issues.

While only a junior programmer, he spent much time and energy designing websites to promote the world's Eucharistic Miracles and Marian apparitions. Printed out on 153 large display boards, Carlo's web content is perhaps the most comprehensive material available on Eucharistic miracles. Carlo said of the Eucharist, "Jesus, make yourself at home within me," and his website was designed to make all people a home for Jesus through Eucharistic adoration. "The Eucharist is my highway to heaven" he often said: "when you put yourself in front of the sun you get tan, but when you put yourself in front of Jesus in the Eucharist you become a saint."

A man is truly known in how he dies, and Carlo found himself facing death at age 15. On October 1, 2006, he felt a bit ill, and by October 8 he was too weak to stand up. Doctor's diagnosed terminal leukemia, and Carlo told his parents, "I would like to leave this hospital, but I know I will not do so alive. I will give you signs, though, that I am with God." His spiritual director said that Carlo had a holy fear of hell and prayed daily for the souls in purgatory. Now it was his turn.

Fr. Sandro Villa, chaplain at Milan's San Gerardo hospital, described the boy he saw before him: "His pale but serene face surprised me—unthinkable in a seriously ill person, especially an adolescent." On October 11, Carlo spoke his final words to his mother: "Mom, don't be afraid. Since Jesus became a man, death has become the passage towards life.... Let us prepare ourselves to experience something extraordinary in the eternal life."

Carlo Acutis died with his faith in Christ fully intact. He had followed his "life's plan," to be "always close to Jesus." In the miraculous cures and conversions following his death, Carlo has been "sending signs from heaven" that all will be well for those who trust God and surrender their lives to Christ.

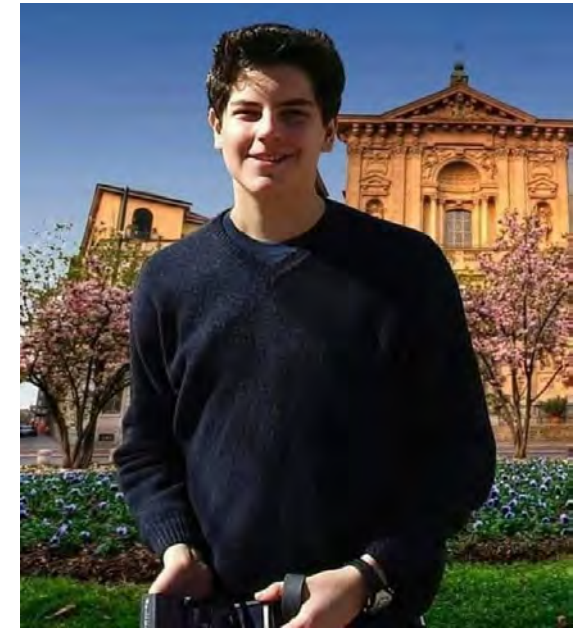
## Saint Carlo Acutis

Born May 3, 1991, London

Died October 12, 2014, Milan

Beatified October 10, 2020, Assisi

Canonized September 7, 2025, Rome



*Welcome to Our Lady's Shrine here in San Francisco. In this pamphlet, prepared by our pastor, Fr. Joseph Illo, you will learn the basic facts and significance of an Italian teenager's brief life. The Church holds Carlo Acutis up as a model and intercessor for young people in general and computer programmers and in particular. You are encouraged to spend some time in quiet prayer, and confessions are available before each Mass. Please keep a reverent and prayerful silence in our shrine church.*

## Star of the Sea Church

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*Just when we had given up on the Millennials, along comes Carlo Acutis. He is the first of his generation to be canonized, proving that those raised in a digital age are capable of believing in something greater than social media*

and online gaming. The transparent joy and psychological strength in Carlo Acutis is extraordinary in a time of widespread depression and emotional fragility. Externally Carlo is an ordinary teenager, but in the most fundamental interior dimensions he manifests extraordinary virtue.

Carlo was born on May 3, 1991 to a wealthy Italian couple living in London. His father's business brought them back to Milan, where servants and nannies attended to Carlo, their only child. While his Irish and Polish nannies shared some of their Catholic faith with the little boy, his parents were typical Italians, not practicing the Catholic faith in which they were raised.

Little Carlo amazed his parents, therefore, when he begged to receive his First Holy Communion at age seven, before the customary age. His parents indulged their only child, taking him to a nearby monastery because the local parishes would not accommodate such an unusual request. From that day, Carlo began attending daily Mass and making holy hours before the Blessed Sacrament. Where did his faith come from? It was not from his parents, and certainly not from the culture. It came directly from God in a most extraordinary manner, and Carlo seemed to know this. *Dio, non Io* he began to say: "God, not I."

But Carlo's extraordinary faith had begun even earlier. When he was three years old, his grandfather died. Carlo told his mother that *nonno* had appeared to him in a dream, asking for prayers, so a few days after the funeral the little boy put on his coat and asked to be taken to the church. He wanted to pray for his grandfather, whom he said "had gone to see Jesus." During summer vacation in his grandparents' seaside village, after a day at the beach, he would join a group of older women to pray the rosary every evening at the local parish. He loved the saints, especially St. Michael, and prayed often to his own guardian angel. He did not strike his classmates, however, as "pious." His devotion was more interior than exterior, but quite apparent to those who knew him well.

Carlo was a precocious lad, and like all little boys, had his weaknesses. He talked too much, he ate too much, and he played too many video games. But unlike most boys, he knew his need for God and purposefully used the graces God provides. He tried his best to pray more and talk less; he gave up every Italian boy's favorite food, Nutella; he limited video games to *one hour a week*, or ten minutes a day. For a boy who loved gaming so much that he could write his own programs,



limiting himself to ten minutes a day is certainly an extraordinary grace. From his First Holy Communion, he also began to say "To be always close to Jesus: that's my life's plan." When death confronted him eight years later, he would remain calm, true to this simple plan for time and eternity: Jesus Christ.

Carlo's exceptional faith expressed itself in works of exceptional charity. When bullied at school, he would conciliate with a smile rather than fight back, and not a few friends thought him too docile. He would reply, "Jesus would not be happy if I lost my temper." When others were bullied, though, he would vigorously defend them.

His love for others was as ordinary as helping children with their homework, and as remarkable as serving the poor beside Mother Teresa's sisters and at the Capuchin soup kitchen. On his walks to school, he made friends with the foreign caretakers and servants in his wealthy neighborhood, stopping to greet them and learning their names.



For the very poor he bought sleeping bags with his allowance money. He loved animals, caring especially for suffering creatures, even rescuing

insects drowning in the local pool (having made friends with the custodian).

He reproached his classmates for whistling at girls, and he spoke forcefully against the use of pornography. As for himself, he said "Our Lady is the only lady in my life." While in southern Italy as a child, his nanny took him to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary at Pompeii. The child spontaneously consecrated himself to Our Lady in the church, and later convinced his parents to visit many of Italy's Eucharistic and Marian shrines. This helped his parents return to the faith, to Carlo's great joy.