



Saint Carlo Acutis

Feast Day October 12

Born: May 3, 1991

Died: October 12, 2006

Beatified: October 10, 2020

Canonized: September 7, 2025 by Pope Leo XIV

Carlo Acutis was born in London, England, to Italian parents, Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano. His family soon returned to Italy, and Carlo grew up in Milan. Although his parents were not especially religious at the time, Carlo showed an unusually early interest in the Catholic faith. As a child, he wanted to visit churches, pray, and learn about the lives of saints. He received his First Communion at a young age and had a special devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist. Carlos was an ordinary teenager in many outward ways. He enjoyed computers, soccer, friends, and everyday life. He attended Mass frequently, prayed the Rosary daily, went to confession weekly, and made an effort to treat people with kindness. Those who knew him remembered his concern for people who were poor, lonely, or bullied. He reportedly defended classmates who were being mistreated and showed compassion toward people living on the streets by bringing them food or sleeping bags. He was always talking to others about Jesus and inviting his friends to Mass. His example showed that holiness did not require withdrawing from ordinary life; it required living ordinary life with faith in God, love, generosity, and purpose.

Carlos had a strong interest in technology and taught himself computer skills, including aspects of programming and website design. Instead of viewing the internet only as entertainment, Carlo saw it as a way to share information about faith. He collected material about 136 Eucharistic miracles from many countries and created a digital catalog and traveling exhibition often known as The Eucharistic Miracles of the World. He started this project when he was 11 years old and it took him two and a half years to complete. The URL for the website is www.miracolieucaristici.org.

In early October 2006, Carlo became seriously ill. Doctors diagnosed him with acute leukemia. He faced his illness with remarkable faith and reportedly offered his suffering for the Pope and for the Church. Carlo died in Monza, Italy, at only fifteen years old. His death was a great loss to his family and friends, but stories of his faith, charity, and digital evangelization continued to spread widely after his death. The Church has recognized two miracles attributed to his intercession. One miracle in 2020 involved the recovery of a Brazilian boy who had a serious pancreatic condition and the other miracle in 2024 involved the recovery of a young Costa Rican woman after a severe head injury.

Carlo remains important because he speaks directly to the modern world. He was not a distant figure from ancient history, nor a monk separated from the daily concerns of ordinary people. He was a teenager who wore casual clothes, used computers, played games, studied in school, and lived with his family. At the same time, he showed that a young person could live with deep faith, concern for others, and moral discipline. Carlo's life offers a practical lesson: modern tools can be used to spread confusion, cruelty, or distraction, but they can also be used to teach, encourage, and serve. His example challenges people of every age to ask how they use their own talents. Saint Carlo Acutis demonstrated that a short life can have a lasting influence when it is guided by faith, compassion, and a desire to use one's gifts for something greater than oneself.