

*Official Prayer and Novena\*\**  
*to the “Blessed”* (as of 10 October 2020)  
**Carlo Acutis** (1991-2006)



“I am happy to die because I have lived my life without wasting a minute on those things that do not please God.” — Carlo Acutis

# Some Things You Should Know About (Blessed) Carlo Acutis

As the Church in the United States and in our own Diocese continues the journey of “Eucharistic Revival”, it is appropriate that information about one of the Church’s *newest* Blesseds, Carlo Acutis, be shared. Carlos’ deep faith and great devotion to the Eucharist at so young an age becomes a witness and testimony to all believers.

As Roman Catholics, our Tradition is deeply rooted in the conviction that the holy men and women (and in this case, at 15 year-old teenager) who have gone before us in faith, remain present with us in our prayer and serve as intercessors for the Church and all believers.

The information that follows on Blessed Carlo Acutis, as well as this Novena Prayer, are being offered to all so that together we may invite Blessed Carlo to join us in prayer, to God, as we ask God to:

- **Move and transform the hearts and minds of those who have grown distant from a deep relationship with the Lord; distant and disconnected from the Church; distant and disconnected from the Eucharistic Table**
- **Inspire, through the example and witness of Blessed Carlo’s life, our younger members to seek the Lord and place him at the center of their lives**
- **Provide Our Lady of Victory Parish with a Minister who will serve our Parish through serving our Youth and Young Adults.**

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Here are some interesting facts and details to know about this young soon-to-be-saint. An inspiration to so many, including young children and teens, Carlo died a young boy at the age of 15 after a brief battle with leukemia. May we all strive for sainthood and learn from Carlo's example!

- ❖ In the short 15 years of his life, Carlo Acutis touched thousands of people with his testimony of faith and deep devotion to the Holy Eucharist.
- ❖ Born in London but raised in Milan, Carlo was confirmed at age 7. He never missed daily Mass as his mother, Antonia Acutis recalls: “As a little boy, especially after his First Communion, he never missed his daily appointment with the Holy Mass and the Rosary, followed by a moment of Eucharistic adoration,” recalls his mother, Antonia Acutis.
- ❖ Carlo had a great devotion and love for the Blessed Mother. He once said: “*The Virgin Mary is the only woman in my life.*”
- ❖ An avid enthusiast of technology, Carlo was a gamer and also a computer programmer.
- ❖ Carlo had a great concern for his friends often inviting those being treated poorly or going through difficult situations to his home for support. Some were dealing with divorce at home or being bullied due to disabilities.

- ❖ With his love for the Eucharist, Carlo had asked his parents to take him on pilgrimages to the sites of all the known Eucharistic miracles in the world but his illness prevented this from happening.
- ❖ Carlo contracted leukemia as a teenager. He offered his pain for Pope Benedict XVI and the Catholic Church, saying: *"I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church."*
- ❖ Carlo used his tech-savvy skillset to build an entire website catalogue of Eucharistic miracles around the world. He started the years-long project when he was 11 years old.
- ❖ Carlo wanted to utilize technology and his website to evangelize. He was inspired by Blessed Giacomo Alberione's initiatives to use the media to proclaim the Gospel.
- ❖ During his battle with leukemia, his doctor asked him if he was suffering much pain and he responded that *"there are people who suffer much more than me."*
- ❖ After Carlo's death, a traveling exhibition of the teen's Eucharistic miracles began, a brainchild of Acutis. Msgr. Raffaello Martinelli and Cardinal Angelo Comastri, who at the time was head of the Catechetical Office of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, helped organize the photo exhibition in his honor. It has now traveled to dozens of countries across five continents.
- ❖ Francesca Consolini, a postulator in the Archdiocese of Milan, thought there was reason to open Carlo's cause of beatification when the required wait of five years after his death has been met. Speaking of the young teen, Consolini said: "His faith, which was unique in such a young person, was pure and certain. It made him always be sincere with himself and with others. He showed extraordinary care for others; he was sensitive to the problems and situations of his friends and those who lived close to him and were with him day to day."
- ❖ Carlo's cause for canonization began in 2013 and he was designated 'Venerable' in 2018. He was called 'Blessed' after Oct. 10, 2020. (*Blessed once a miracle\* had been attributed to his intercession*).
- ❖ The beatification rite of Carlo Acutis took place on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. in the Upper Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi. The chosen date was close to an important anniversary in Carlo's life; his birth to Heaven on Oct. 12, 2006.
- ❖ A book was created containing the Eucharistic miracles he had fleshed out on his website, containing nearly 100 accounts of miracles from 17 different countries, all verified and approved by the Church.
- ❖ Millions around the world have been following his path to sainthood. Just by typing his name into a search engine, more than 2,500 websites and blogs emerge detailing his life and story.

*Witnessing his beatification and seeing a young boy wearing jeans, a sweatshirt and sneakers, may we all remember we are called to be saints and strive to live like Carlo with whatever time we are given. As a young Acutis once said: "The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of Heaven."*

\* The beatification of Carlo Acutis took place Oct. 10, 2020 after a miracle attributed to his prayers and the grace of God. In Brazil, a boy named Mattheus was healed from a serious birth defect called an annular pancreas after he and his mother asked Acutis to pray for his healing.

Mattheus was born in 2009 with a serious condition that caused him difficulty eating and serious abdominal pain. He was unable to keep any food in his stomach, and vomited constantly.

By the time Mattheus was nearly four years old, he weighed only 20 pounds, and lived on a vitamin and protein shake, one of the few things his body could tolerate. He was not expected to live long.

His mother, Luciana Vianna, had spent years praying for his healing.

Mattheus' mother heard about [a] prayer service [that would take place at a Parish who's priest was a friend of the family's). She decided she would ask Acutis to intercede for her son. In fact, in the days before the prayer service, Vianna made a novena for Acutis' intercession, and explained to her son that they could ask Acutis to pray for his healing.

Fr. Nicola Gori, the priest responsible for promoting Acutis' sainthood cause, told Italian media what happened next:

"On October 12, 2013, seven years after Carlo's death, a child, affected by a congenital malformation (annular pancreas), when it was his turn to touch the picture of the future blessed, expressed a singular wish, like a prayer: 'I wish I could stop vomiting so much.' Healing began immediately, to the point that the physiology of the organ in question changed," Fr. Gori said.

On the way home from the Mass, Mattheus told his mother that he was already cured. At home, he asked for French fries, rice, beans, and steak - the favorite foods of his brothers. He ate everything on his plate. He didn't vomit. He ate normally the next day, and the next. Vianna took Mattheus to physicians, who were mystified by Mattheus' healing.

Mattheus' mother told Brazilian media she sees in the miracle an opportunity to evangelize. "Before, I didn't even use my cell phone, I was averse to technology. Carlo changed my way of thinking, he was known for talking about Jesus on the Internet, and I realized that my testimony would be a way to evangelize and give hope to other families. Today I understand that everything new can be good, if we use it for good, " she told reporters.

\*\* The word *Novena* is rooted in the Latin word for nine. The practice of the novena is based in early Christianity, where Masses were held for nine days with devotional prayers for someone who has died. The practice may trace its origins to an early Greek and Roman custom performed by families, consisting of nine days of mourning after the death of a loved one, followed by a feast, which originally prompted Catholic writers such as Saint Augustine, Pseudo-Alcuin and John Belet to warn Christians not to emulate the custom.

Over time, members of the Roman Catholic faith began to associate novena with Christian themes such as the nine months Jesus spent in the womb, the giving-up of His spirit at the ninth hour, and the occasion in the Upper Room with Twelve Apostles and the Blessed

Virgin Mary when they prayed for nine days until the Holy Spirit descended on the Feast of the Pentecost. In the New Testament, this biblical event is often quoted from Acts of the Apostles, 1:12–2:5.

The practice of novena grew by the Middle Ages to include pious prayers for nine days before a feast in honor of a saint identified on a liturgical calendar. By the 11th century, the novena practice had become a means in Christianity of praying to petition spiritual or personal favor through a saint, such as Virgin Mary. After the Protestant Reformation and Counter-Reformation, the Catholic Church formally permitted novenas, in particular through the papal approvals of a large number of novenas by Pope Pius IX.

In the Roman Catholic Church, there are three recognized categories of novenas, though this distinction is not exclusive:

- Mourning, or before a burial;
- In preparation for a Church feast; the revised *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum* assigns indulgenced novenas to particular feasts: "A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful, who devoutly take part in the pious exercises of a public novena before the feast of Christmas or Pentecost or the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary."
- Intercessory (for a particular request).

By standard liturgical norms, novenas may be performed in church, at home, or anywhere where solemn prayers are appropriate . . .

The first chapter of the *General Principles* of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, #13, of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) sought to give guidance on the place of novenas in Christian piety:

*Devotions should be so drawn up that they harmonize with the liturgical seasons, accord with the sacred liturgy, are in some fashion derived from it, and lead the people to it, since, in fact, the liturgy by its very nature far surpasses any of them.*

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is found on the following pages.



# Prayer to the Venerable Carlo Acutis

O Father,  
who have given us the ardent witness,  
of the young Venerable Carlo Acutis,  
who made the Eucharist the center of his life  
and the strength of his daily commitments  
so that others may love You above all else,  
may him soon be numbered among  
the Blessed and the Saints of Your Church.

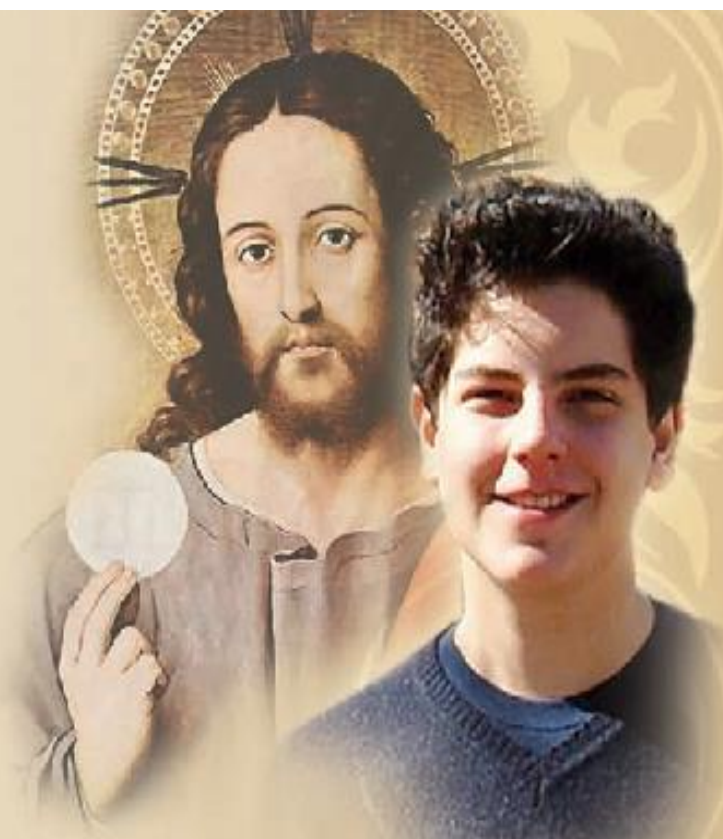
Confirm my faith,  
nurture my hope,  
strengthen my charity,  
in the image of young Carlo,  
who, growing in these virtues,  
now lives with You.

Grant me the grace that I need...

I trust in You, Father, and your Beloved Son Jesus,  
in the Virgin Mary, our Dearest Mother,  
and in the intercession of Your  
Venerable Carlo Acutis.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

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*“Always to be  
united with Jesus, that  
is my life’s programme”*



# Novena to the Venerable Carlo Acutis

## Opening Prayer

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I thank you for all the grace and favours with which you enriched the soul of the Servant of God Carlo Acutis during his 15 years on this earth. Through the merits of this Angel of Youth, grant me the grace which I earnestly seek (*Ask the grace which you seek*).

## First Day Meditation:

### *Not me, but God"*

Venerable Carlo Acutis, you who made your life a continual renunciation and setting aside of unimportant things, give me the grace to seek heavenly things and despise that which is transient. Amen.

*Pray five "Our Fathers", five "Hail Marys" and five "Glory Be to the Fathers" to give thanks to God for the grace granted to Carlo in the 15 years of his earthly life.*

## Second day Meditation:

### *Always to be united with Jesus, that is my life's programme"*

Venerable Carlo Acutis, you who have lived in the heart of Jesus, give me the grace to apply Jesus's plan of love to everything. Amen.

*Pray five "Our Fathers", five "Hail Marys" and five "Glory Be to the Fathers" to give thanks to God for the grace granted to Carlo in the 15 years of his earthly life.*

## Third day Meditation:

### *Continuously ask your Guardian Angel for help. Your Guardian Angel has to become your best friend"*

Venerable Carlo Acutis, you who saw the company of Holy Angels while you were already in this world, give me the Grace to live righteously, as my Guardian Angel desires. Amen.

*Pray five "Our Fathers", five "Hail Marys" and five "Glory Be to the Fathers" to give thanks to God for the grace granted to Carlo in the 15 years of his earthly life.*

## Fourth day Meditation:

### *Our soul is like a hot-air balloon... If by chance there is a mortal sin, the soul falls to the ground. Confession is like the fire underneath the balloon enabling the soul to rise again... It is important to go to confession often"*

Venerable Carlo Acutis, you who have lived this sacrament of reconciliation so well, give me the grace constantly to seek confession and the grace of a deep contrition. Amen.

*Pray five "Our Fathers", five "Hail Marys" and five "Glory Be to the Fathers" to give thanks to God for the grace granted to Carlo in the 15 years of his earthly life.*

## Fifth day Meditation:

### *Sadness is looking at ourselves, happiness is looking towards God"*

Venerable Carlo Acutis, you who have never looked away from your great love, Jesus, give me the grace also to live with this happiness in this world. Amen.

*Si recitano 5 "Padre Nostro", 5 "Ave Maria" e 5 "Gloria al Padre", in ringraziamento a Dio per i doni concessi a Carlo nei 15 anni della sua vita terrena.*

## Sixth Day Meditation:

### *The only thing we have to ask God for, in prayer, is the desire to be holy"*

Venerable Carlo Acutis, you who have always asked God for what is essential, give me the grace of a deep desire for Heaven. Amen.

*Pray five "Our Fathers", five "Hail Marys" and five "Glory Be to the Fathers" to give thanks to God for the grace granted to Carlo in the 15 years of his earthly life.*

## Seventh Day Meditation:

### *The Virgin Mary is the only Woman in my life"*

Venerable Carlo Acutis, you who loved the Virgin Mary above all women, give me the grace to respond to her kind and good love. Amen.

*Pray five "Our Fathers", five "Hail Marys" and five "Glory Be to the Fathers" to give thanks to God for the grace granted to Carlo in the 15 years of his earthly life.*

## Eighth Day Meditation:

### *The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven"*

Venerable Carlo Acutis, you who have always looked for your hidden Jesus in the Tabernacle, give me the grace of a deep fervour for the Eucharist. Amen.

*Pray five "Our Fathers", five "Hail Marys" and five "Glory Be to the Fathers" to give thanks to God for the grace granted to Carlo in the 15 years of his earthly life.*

## Ninth Day Meditation:

### *I am happy to die because I have lived my life without wasting a minute on those things which do not please God."*

Venerable Carlo Acutis, give me that grace of graces – perseverance to the end and a saintly death. Amen.

*Pray five "Our Fathers", five "Hail Marys" and five "Glory Be to the Fathers" to give thanks to God for the grace granted to Carlo in the 15 years of his earthly life.*

## Final Prayer

Almighty God, Father of Mercy, raise your Servant Carlo Acutis to the glory of the altars, so that through him you will be even more glorified. Give us the honour of calling him "Blessed", for he lived Your Will in all things. And through his merit, give me the grace that I so ardently desire. Amen