

Saint (2024?) Carlo Acutis

(3 May 1991 – 12 October 2006)

[Enjoy this short video to give us a glimpse of his life.]

Why look at Carlo? I never expected to uncover what I found. I thought it would be just a random current saint.

I was particularly interested in knowing **how this person became a saint**.

Not the signs and wonders of his holiness. Yes, some saints walk on water, cure the sick and raise the dead

BUT HOW DID THEY GET THERE!

What did Carlo do in his life which propelled him forward in his spirituality.

We can read piles of books on saints but many times we can overlook the effort they put in and instead focus on the results.

For example, a baker may refuse to bake a cake celebrating a gay marriage because he does not wish to be complicit in and promote that sinful lifestyle. But how was he able to raise his **consciousness and willpower** to get to that response?

Martyrdom in the Roman coliseum was a reward from heaven for your faith. The roman baker offended the population for not baking their cakes for Zeus and after complaints to the emperor, the emperor said "send him to the lions and leave me alone." But how did that baker raise himself to that level of spirituality to say no to the baking of a cake?

Obviously, prayer is part of the answer. But that is not the end of the story.

You will get tired! You can suffer prayer fatigue.

So, you need to desire it, and pray for it.! **Ask your guardian angel for holiness.**

Most importantly perseverance is our only tool. (more on that in next meeting)

Holiness can be scary. We are scared of the unknown. God is too kind to hurt you. Satan can hurt you and you can hurt yourself, but God will never – would He hand you a rock when you ask for bread. [Matthew 7:10]

Usually, holiness seems to frighten us. We believe that it is beyond our reach, too hard for ordinary people to achieve. But this is what Carlo tells us, "You too can be a saint. But you need to want it with your whole heart, and, if you do not yet desire it, ask the Lord for it with insistence."……(**perseverance**)

Back to Carlo – The Early life - Birth and baptism

Carlo Acutis was born in London, England, on 3 May 1991, to Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano, **members of wealthy Italian families**.



His father's family worked in the Italian insurance industry, and his mother's ran a publishing company.

Acutis' maternal great-grandmother was born in the United States and came from a family of landowners in New York.

His baptism took place on 18 May 1991 in the Church of Our Lady of Dolors, London. His paternal grandfather, Carlo, was his godfather; and his maternal grandmother, Luana, was his godmother.

Neither of his parents were religious.

So Carlo came from a non-religious, wealthy family. This is certainly not what we would expect.

The family moved to Milan September 1991 shortly after Carlo was born. They worked in the family businesses and he was cared for by a nanny named Beata.

Family life



Acutis's mother Antonia grew up in a secular family. She was confirmed while she was in college and was married in the church, but **she did not attend Mass before Acutis was born**. Her son's faith and his insistent questions brought her back to the faith. It was similar for his father. Antonia was asked and agreed to lead a catechism class after Acutis made his First Communion, though she did not feel qualified to do so.

What shocked me about his story is that Blessed Carlo wasn't raised Catholic. His parents weren't trying to raise a future saint: They weren't even trying to raise a kid who stayed Catholic!

"Before Carlo was born, I did not have faith," his mother, Antonia Salzano Acutis, admits candidly in her memoir, My Son Carlo. Before Carlo, she wrote, "I had only gone to Mass three times in my life."

Instead of the parents handing down their faith to their child, it was the other way around for Carlo. "My husband and I had come back to our faith a few years prior [to Carlo's death]," his mother wrote. "We discovered it thanks to Carlo. It was he who brought us close to God."

It was Carlo who "handed up" his faith to his parents after learning about Jesus through his Polish nanny, Beata, a practicing Catholic with a special devotion to St. John Paul II.

Antonia, his mother, acknowledges many children might not want to go to Mass. "They don't want to go because the parents are not consistent with their faith. The children see this," she observes. She and her husband followed the parenting advice of St. John Bosco, known for reforming many young people who were on the wrong path in the late 1800s. His method, referred to as the Salesian Preventive System, is based on the three pillars of reason, religion and loving-kindness as opposed to constant correction and punishment. He believed it was important to treat young people as persons, always focused on their formation as human beings and as Christians. "Many parents always say yes, okay my dear, yes, yes!" Antonia says. "Instead, to say no is very important. We have to understand that if we love our children, we also have to educate them. We have to say no sometimes. "**The Salesian system posits that it is easier to prevent poor behavior than to correct it.**

During his lifetime, Carlo remained an only child and his cousin, Flavia, was his best friend. Precisely four years to the day after his death, his mother, Antonia, then aged 44, gave birth to twins, Michele and Francesca. She is said to attribute this event to her son's intercession.

Religious education and devotion

When Acutis was three years old, his maternal grandfather, Antonio Salzano, died. Several days earlier, he was present when his grandfather received the Anointing of the Sick The grandfather was said to have appeared to him in a dream asking for prayer. Shortly after his death, Acutis put on his coat while his grandmother was minding him and asked to be taken to church. When she asked him why, he said he wanted to pray for his grandfather, whom he declared "had gone to see Jesus". When Acutis displayed an interest in Catholic religious practice, his questions were answered by the family's Polish babysitter.

The nanny was a polish woman named Beata, a committed Catholic. The young boy was entrusted **for four years** to the care of this Polish nanny, a practicing Catholic, with a special devotion to St. John Paul II.

[The nanny is where our real story almost begins]



In the opening video, there is mention of an "unexplained devotion" that Carlo possessed. It is NOT unexplained!

Aside from a few visits to a daycare center, most of Acutis' early care came from the nanny. During one daycare visit, he was bullied by other children. The Polish nanny, who thought he was too nice, tried to teach him to set boundaries so that other children would not take his toys. He replied: "Jesus would not be happy if I lost my temper." In the summer, Acutis would stay with his mother's parents in Centola. After spending the day at the beach, he would join a number of older women in the local parish church to pray the rosary. His family also owned a boat at Santa Margherita Ligure, near the Basilica of St. Margaret of Antiochia.

Beata ended up teaching young Carlo about the faith. **As the parents had no interest or desire in doing so.**

Carlo and Beata often entered churches they ran across when they went out.

Her method was not to evangelize but to awaken a soul to God's love for that soul.

Remember our three points of evangelization. Pray that God send you someone - Let God do the heavy lifting - keep your mouth shut.

We know more details about the nanny and Carlo because these are contemporary people. More information is available on them than some saints from the Middle Ages.

When Acutis was 12 years old, he became a catechist in his parish, Santa Maria Segreta, Milan. **At the time, the Italian catechetical structure typically relied on young team leaders in youth groups**, as contrasted with adults, to deliver religious education to their peers. Acutis' parish priest said of him that:

Carlo was a young man who was exceptionally transparent. He really wanted to progress in loving his parents, God, his classmates, and those who loved him less. He wanted to apply himself in his studies to educate himself in his catechism class as well as in school and computer science.

Acutis' attended his first primary school in September 1997, the San Carlo Institute in Milan; but as the school was a distance from their home, three months later he transferred to the Marcelline Tommaseo Institute, run by the Sisters of St. Marcellina. During his walks to school, he took particular interest in the foreign caretakers of the different homes along his route; learning their names and stopping to greet them personally each morning. Upon completing middle school, Acutis went on to the Jesuit Instituto Leone XIII high school.

On 16 June 1998, when he was seven years old, Acutis received his First Communion at the convent of Sant'Ambrogio ad Nemus, Milan. Acutis was also a frequent communicant and attended Eucharistic Adoration. He was confirmed five years later on 24 May 2003 at Santa Maria Segreta Church. Carlo asked for special permission to receive his first Communion at the age of 7; and from that day until he died, Carlo never missed going to daily Mass. He prayed the Rosary every day and took part in Eucharistic adoration.

"He read the Bible every day as well as the Catechism put together by Pope John Paul II. Carlo would say that the Bible was his compass. By the age of 11, he was teaching catechism to younger children," she said.

His mother noted that later in life "He started to really pray and to do little sacrifices, maybe renouncing Nutella, Coca-Cola."

Although he was an average student, he liked to read and pursued other academic areas independently, including computer science and teaching himself the saxophone. Carlo also loved karate, skiing, basketball, canoeing and walking his dogs. Acutis also had a tutor who helped him with his homework and followed him to church.

Acutis showed an interest in the lives of saints, especially Francis of Assisi, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, Dominic Savio, Tarcisius, Bernadette Soubirous, and Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi. He is said to have prayed to his guardian angel frequently and exhibited a special devotion to St. Michael the Archangel.

Rajesh Mohur, a Hindu house servant employed by the family is often referred to as the nanny. (This misinformation is everywhere on Wikipedia). He and Acutis became friends. In time, after speaking with Acutis about Christianity, Mohur asked to be baptized. A friend of Mohur's, Seeven Kistnen, also converted and was baptized after meeting with Acutis and hearing him speak about the faith. At lunch, he would put the leftover food in food containers to bring to the homeless of the area. A deep friendship formed between him and Carlo to the point that the man converted and asked to receive the Sacraments.



Rajesh recounts: "He said that I would be happier if I drew close to Jesus. I got baptized a Christian because he communicated to me and electrified me with his faith, his charity, and his purity. Mohur's mother, visiting from Mauritius, attended Mass with Mohur and Acutis, who talked with her at length afterwards, and she too asked to be baptized.

The Dominican Connection



One of the mottos of the Dominican Order is Laudare, Benedicere, Praedicare: to praise, to bless, to preach

Early in the 15th century the Order adopted a single black and white shield, (our motto) representing joy and penance. In the mid 15th century the 8-point star was added, representing compass points. The star is also a symbol of light and divine revelation.

Carlo was particularly devoted to Our Lady of Pompeii. He received this devotion at the hands of his polish nanny, who was also devoted to John Paul II. It is probable that Carlo would have been at the shrine in Pompeii during a visit by John Paull II in 2003.

So who is Our Lady of Pompeii and how does that connect to the Dominican Order?



We know the story of Pompeii. In the summer of A.D. 79, the nearby Mount Vesuvius volcano erupted. It spewed smoke and toxic gas 20 miles into the air, which soon spread to the town. Almost overnight, Pompeii—and many of its 10,000 residents—vanished under a blanket of ash.

Our Lady of Pompeii has absolutely nothing to do with the volcano !



The story actually begins with Bartolo Longo, the son of a doctor and a devout Catholic mother. He went through a crisis of faith in his university years as he studied to become a lawyer. He joined a sect and was ordained as a priest of Satan! He publicly ridiculed Christianity and did all in his power to subvert Catholic influence.

He particularly disliked the Dominicans. "I, too, grew to hate monks, priests and the Pope," he would later write, "and in particular [I detested] the Dominicans, the most formidable, furious opponents of those great modern professors, proclaimed by the university the sons of progress, the defenders of science, the champions of every sort of freedom." This is indicative of society today!



A good friend, Vincent Pede, eventually showed Bartolo the gentleness of Christ and arranged for him to meet a saintly Dominican priest, Alberto Radente.(See below for more on Fr Alberto) This **Dominican** had a deep, personal devotion to Mary and fostered the devotion of the Rosary. Bartolo saw Mary as a "Refuge of Sinners" and attributed his own miraculous conversion to her. Now he wanted to do penance for his past life and serve the Church that he had so viciously slandered. He made a promise to work for the poor and destitute.

In 1872 he arrived in marshy, impoverished City of Pompeii, accompanied by two armed escorts for protection against bandits. He was shocked and filled with great pity at the ignorance, poverty, and lack of religion of the inhabitants. Discouraged and full of doubts, he distinctly heard a voice speak to him on October 9.

The voice said clearly that if he sought salvation, then he should promulgate the Rosary. The voice said that this was Mary's own promise. He promised Our Lady in return that he would do everything in his power to do so: "I will not leave this valley until I have propagated your Rosary."



Bartolo began teaching the catechism, spreading rosary devotions, and holding Rosary Festivals with games, races, and even a lottery. From 1873 to 1875 he restored an old church, held an annual festival on the Feast of the Holy Rosary in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, and obtained and restored a worn painting of Mary from a convent in Naples for this church.

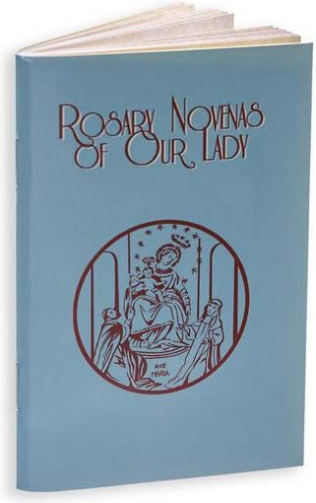
It is this painting and the fact that it is located in Pompeii that gives the painting its name.

The miraculous image of Our Lady of Pompeii is a typical rosary painting. Where Our Lady with the Child on her right leg and arm gives a rosary to Saint Catherine of Siena while the Christ Child with his right hand gives a rosary to Saint Dominic standing on the left side of the painting. The original was bought by Fr. Alberto Radente, OP, for 3.40 lira in a pawnshop in Venice, where it belonged to the convent of "**S. Domenico Maggiore**" (in Naples and home of St Thomas Aquinas). He gave it to **a tertiary** in Naples who in turn gave it to Blessed Bartola Longo (1841-1926), The original painter is not known.

This painting was tattered, torn, cracked, and "worm-eaten," arriving on its back in a wagon of manure. The image was first placed in the small, restored chapel in 1875, but plans were made to build a large church worthy of Our Lady of the Rosary. Three hundred people of the area pledged a penny a month for Our Lady's work. The cornerstone laying was held on May 8, 1876

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Fast forward, to Fortuna Agrelli, a very ill young girl suffering three incurable diseases that most doctors had given up on, was joined by her family in saying a novena of Rosaries starting on February 16, 1884. The Virgin Mary then appeared to her on March 3rd, sitting upon a high throne, profusely decorated with flowers. She held the Divine Child on her lap and a Rosary in her hand; both were clad in gold-embroidered garments. St. Dominic and St. Catherine of Siena accompanied them. Fortuna asked Mary — as **"the Queen of the Rosary"**—for a cure for herself.

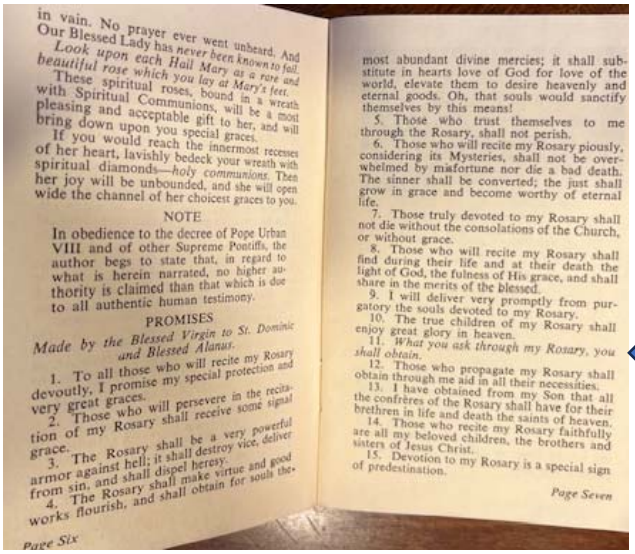


"You have invoked me by various titles and have always obtained favors from me. Now, since you have called me by the title so pleasing to me, Queen of the Holy Rosary, I can no longer refuse the favor that you petition - for this name is most precious and dear to me. Make three novenas, and you will obtain all."

But wait there is more

Fortuna did as Mary said and was completely cured.

Mary appeared to her again and said, "Whosoever desires to obtain favors from me should make three novenas of the prayers of the Rosary in petition and three novenas in thanksgiving: And this is how the 54 day rosary novena began and continues in use today.


in vain. No prayer ever went unheard. And Our Blessed Lady has never been known to fail.

Look upon each Hail Mary as a rare and beautiful rose which you lay at Mary's feet.

These spiritual roses, bound in a wreath with Spiritual Communions, will be a most pleasing and acceptable gift to her, and will bring down upon you special graces.

If you would reach the innermost recesses of her heart, lavishly bedeck your wreath with spiritual diamonds—*holy communions*. Then her joy will be unbounded, and she will open wide the channel of her choicest graces to you.

NOTE

In obedience to the decree of Pope Urban VIII and of other Supreme Pontiffs, the author begs to state that, in regard to what is herein narrated, no higher authority is claimed than that which is due to all authentic human testimony.

PROMISES

Made by the Blessed Virgin to St. Dominic and Blessed Alanus.

1. To all those who will recite my Rosary devoutly, I promise my special protection and very great graces.
2. Those who will persevere in the recitation of my Rosary shall receive some signal grace.
3. The Rosary shall be a very powerful armor against hell; it shall destroy vice, deliver from sin, and shall dispel heresy.
4. The Rosary shall make virtue and good works flourish, and shall obtain for souls the

Page Six

most abundant divine mercies; it shall substitute in hearts love of God for love of the world, elevate them to desire heavenly and eternal goods. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means!

5. Those who trust themselves to me through the Rosary, shall not perish.
6. Those who will recite my Rosary piously, considering its Mysteries, shall not be overwhelmed by misfortune nor die a bad death. The sinner shall be converted; the just shall grow in grace and become worthy of eternal life.
7. Those truly devoted to my Rosary shall not die without the consolations of the Church, or without grace.
8. Those who will recite my Rosary shall find during their life and at their death the light of God, the fulness of His grace, and shall share in the merits of the blessed.
9. I will deliver very promptly from purgatory the souls devoted to my Rosary.
10. The true children of my Rosary shall enjoy great glory in heaven.
11. *What you ask through my Rosary, you shall obtain.*
12. Those who propagate my Rosary shall obtain through me aid in all their necessities.
13. I have obtained from my Son that all the confrères of the Rosary shall have for their brethren in life and death the saints of heaven.
14. Those who recite my Rosary faithfully are all my beloved children, the brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion to my Rosary is a special sign of predestination.

Page Seven

See promise #11 – that is where this promise originates

We mentioned that Carlo was particularly devoted to Our Lady of Pompeii and this would have undoubtedly been expressed in his life through recitation of the 54 day rosary novena .

The new shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary was completed in 1883. Within the month, miraculous events began to take place at the shrine. Four healings were recorded, including the following which is related in the Rosary Novena booklet of today





His later life - Internet Apostolate

In 1998 at age 7, Carlo became fascinated with computer programming.
“He begged me to find him books on programming, so I bought him textbooks from the Polytechnique University of Milan on C++. He learned how to code in several languages. He taught himself everything, including 3-D animation,” she said. “It was unbelievable.” He also learned Java, Adobe and Photoshop.

Once he mastered computer programming, Carlo began to use it to spread the Catholic faith. He developed a website on Eucharistic miracles, which he worked on for four years. The website has a compilation of 196 stories of Eucharistic miracles. It has been turned into an exhibit that has traveled the world**. Even Holy Ghost**
Carlo also developed exhibits on the Virgin Mary, purgatory and angels and demons. He created websites for his Milan parish and for local Jesuits to encourage volunteers.
“Carlo understood that the internet can be used as an atomic bomb for good, but it can also be used for bad, to diminish the human person,” said Antonia.

Carlo believed that the internet could claim a kind of “tyranny” over the soul and become an addiction. He always had a sense that he couldn’t waste time and imposed on himself that he could only play on his PlayStation one hour per week.

When he was 14, his parish priest asked him to create a webpage for his parish, Santa Maria Segreta in Milan. After this, a priest at his high school asked him to create a website to promote volunteering. For this work, he won a national competition called "Sarai volontario" (You will be a volunteer).

Eucharistic miracles (http://www.miracolieucaristici.org/en/Liste/list.html)

Carlo would often say: "The Eucharist is the highway to Heaven." This is a result of his devotion to the rosary. One does not begin with eucharistic devotion but gets there through prayer.

Carlo Acutis, loved to to say, "All of us are born as originals, but many of us die as photocopies."



AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION DESIGNED AND CREATED BY CARLO ACUTIS THE SERVANT OF GOD

Carlo Acutis
Creator of the Exhibition

The Eucharistic Miracles of the World

Relevant Articles about the Eucharistic Miracles

The Eucharistic Miracles
Reverend Fr. Roberto Coggi, O.P.

Miracles by Country
ARGENTINA
Buenos Aires, 1992-1994-1996

AUSTRIA
Fiecht, 1310

Seefeld, 1384

Weiten-Raxendorf, 1411

BELGIUM
Bois-Seigneur-Isaac, 1405

Bruges, 1203

Brussels, 1370

Herentals, 1412

Herkenrode-Hasselt, 1317

The devotion of Carlo Acutis to the Blessed Mother truly was extraordinary. As a young child, he visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii in Italy, and it was there that he made a consecration to Mary, which he followed for the rest of his life.

Carlo found time to fit Eucharistic Adoration into his daily schedule, even when he attended the classical high school in Milan

Keen to **transmit the faith to a younger generation**, Acutis applied himself to creating a website dedicated to cataloguing each reported Eucharistic miracle in the world and maintaining a list of the approved Marian apparitions of the Catholic Church. He appreciated Blessed Giacomo Alberione's initiatives to use the media to evangelize and proclaim the Gospel, aiming to do likewise with his own website. Acutis launched the website in 2004 and worked on it for two and a half years, involving his entire family in the project. It was unveiled on 4 October 2006, the Feast of St. Francis, only days before his death. Because he was hospitalized, Acutis was not able to attend the debut of his exhibition at Rome's Church of San Carlo Borromeo. The exhibition was also presented at his high school, the Leo XIII Institute.

Photo exhibition of Eucharistic miracles



In memory of Acutis, Bishops Raffaello Martinelli and Angelo Comastri have helped to organize a traveling photo exhibition of all the Eucharistic miracle sites. It has since traveled to dozens of different countries across five continents.

The preface to the print version of the exhibit was written by Cardinal Angelo Comastri and has been translated into 18 languages It has traveled to more than 10,000 places, including churches, congressional palaces, youth clubs, and welcome centers. The exhibit was also brought to the canonization of Francisco and Jacinta Marto in Fatima, Portugal.

Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis

List of Miracles

Argentina
Buenos Aires, 1992-1994-1996
Austria
Fiecht, 1310
Seefeld, 1384
Weiten-Raxendorf, 1411
Belgium
Bois-Seigneur-Isaac, 1405
Bruges, 1203
Brussels, 1370
Herentals, 1412
Herkenrode-Hasselt, 1317
Liège, 1374
Middleburg-Lovanio, 1374
Colombia
Tumaco, 1906
Croatia
Ludbreg, 1411
Egypt
St. Mary of Egypt, IV-V cent.
Scete, III-V cent.
France
Avignon, 1433
Blanot, 1331
Bordeaux, 1822
Dijon, 1430
Douai, 1254
Faverney, 1608
La Rochelle, 1461
Neuvy Saint Sepulcre, 1257
Les Ulmes, 1668
Marseille-En-Beauvais, 1533
Paris, 1290
Pressac, 1643
Germany
Augsburg, 1194
Benningen, 1216
Bettbrunn, 1125
Erding, 1417
Kranenburg, 1280
Regensburg, 1255
Walldürn, 1330
Weingarten
Wilsnack, 1383
India
Chirattakonam, 2001
Martinique
Morne-Rouge, 1902
Reunion Islands
Saint-André de la Réunion, 1902
Italy
Alatri, 1228
Saint Clare of Assisi, 1240
Asti, 1535
Bagno di Romagna, 1412
Bolsena, 1264
Canosio, 1630
Cascia, 1330
Cava dei Tirreni, 1656
Dronero, 1631
San Mauro La Bruca, 1969
Ferrara, 1171
Florence, 1230-1595
Gruaro (Valvasone), 1294
Lanciano, 750 D.C.
Macerata, 1356
Mogoro, 1604
Morrovalle, 1560
Offida, 1273-1280
Patierno (Naples), 1772
Rimini, 1227
Rome, VI-VII cent.
Rome, 1610
Rosano, 1948
S. Peter Damian, XI cent.
Salzano, 1517
Scala, 1732
Siena, 1730
Trani, XI sec.
Turin, 1453
Turin, 1640
Veroli, 1570
Volterra, 1472
Mexico
Tixtla, 2006
Holland
Alkmaar, 1429
Amsterdam, 1345
Bergen, 1421
Boxmeer, 1400
Boxtel-Hoogstraten, 1380
Breda-Niervaart, 1300
Meerssen, 1222-1465
Stiphout, 1342
Peru
Eten, 1649
Poland
Krakow, 1345
Glotowo, 1290
Legnica, 2013
Poznan, 1399
Sokółka 2008
Portugal
Santarém, 1247
Spain
Alboraya-Almacéra, 1348
Alcalà, 1597
Alcoy, 1568
Caravaca de la Cruz, 1231
Cimballa, 1370
Daroca, 1239
Gerona, 1297
Gorkum-El Escorial, 1572
Guadalupe, 1420
Ivorra, 1010
Moncada, 1392
Montserrat, 1657
O'Cebreiro, 1300
Onil, 1824
Ponferrada, 1533
S. John of the Abbesses, 1251
Silla, 1907
Valencia
Zaragoza, 1427
Switzerland
Ettiswil, 1447
Venezuela
Betania, 1991
SAINTS, MYSTICS AND THE EUCHARIST
Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque – Sacred Heart of Jesus, 17th Century
Saint Thomas Aquinas, 1224-1274
Saint Francis of Assisi, 13th Century
Saint Bernard of Chiaravalle, 12th Century
San Giovanni Bosco, 1848
Saint Germaine Cousin (Pibrac), 1589
Saint Egidio
Saint Stanislaus Kostka, 1550-1568
Saint Faustina Kowalska, 20th Century
Saint Satyrus, 4th Century
Saint Catherine of Siena, 1347-1380
Blessed Alexandrina Maria da Costa, 1904-1955
Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, 1774-1824
Blessed Mary of the Passion, 1866-1912
Blessed Nicholas Steno (in Danish)
St. Nicholas of Flue, 1417
Servant of God Anne-Louise Lateau, 1850
Servant of God Marthe Robin, 1902-1981
André Frossard, 20th Century
Teresa Neumann, 1898-1962
OUR LADY AND THE EUCHARIST
Calanda, Spain, Miguel-Juan Pellicer, 1640
Fatima, Portugal, The Angel of Peace, 1916
Guadalupe, Mexico, Juan Diego, 1531
Lourdes, France, Saint Bernadette, 1888
Paris, France, Saint Catherine Labouré, 1830
MIRACULOUS COMMUNIONS
Miraculous Communions (part 1)
• Blessed Emilia Bicchieri
• Blessed Imelda Lambertini
• Blessed James of Montieri
• Blessed Thomas of Cori
• Saint Bernard
• Saint Bonaventure
• Saint Gerard Magella
• Saint Jerome
• Saint Juliana Falconieri
• Saint Lucia Filippini
• Saint Maria Francesca of the Five Wounds
• Saint Secondo
Miraculous Communions (part 2)
• Blessed Angela of Foligno
• Saint Agnes Segni
• Saint Clare Montefalco
• Saint Frances of Rome
• Saint Gregory the Great
• Saint Teresa of Avila

Eucharistic Miracle of PARIS

FRANCE, 1290

During Easter of 1290 a non-believer who harbored animosity toward the Faith and did not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist was able to gain possession of a consecrated Host with the intent to desecrate it. He stabbed the Host and threw it into boiling water. The Host came out of the water by itself right in front of the man who was distressed by this and so put the Host in the basin of a pious woman. The woman immediately brought the Host to her pastor.



Window of the Church of St. Etienne representing the miracle des Billetes



Miniature of a cartolario (16th Century), kept in the National Archives which represents the scene of the sacrilege



Demolition of the Church of Saint-Jean-en-Grève. Pierre-Antoine Demachy (1797)



The Church of St. Etienne du Mont

There are numerous documents that testify to the events of this miracle. The Italian historian Giovanni Villani in Book VII, Chapter 136, of his celebrated *History of Florence* reports all the principal facts of the miracle. A deep study of the sources was done by Mrs. Moreau-Rendu in a work entitled : *A Paris, Rue des Jardins* published in 1954 with a preface by Bishop Touzé who was the Auxiliary Bishop of Paris. The author, after a detailed list of the documents, placed them under rigorous examination and declared with confidence the authenticity of the facts. The best known version of the story is found in the *History of the Church of Paris* written by the French archbishop, Archbishop Rupp, who tells of the Eucharistic Miracle of Paris in the pages dedicated to the episcopate of Simon Matifas of Busay who held the See of St. Denis from 1290 to 1304: Easter Sunday, April 2, 1290, a man named Jonathas, who hated the Catholic Faith and did not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the consecrated Host, was able to gain possession of a consecrated Host.

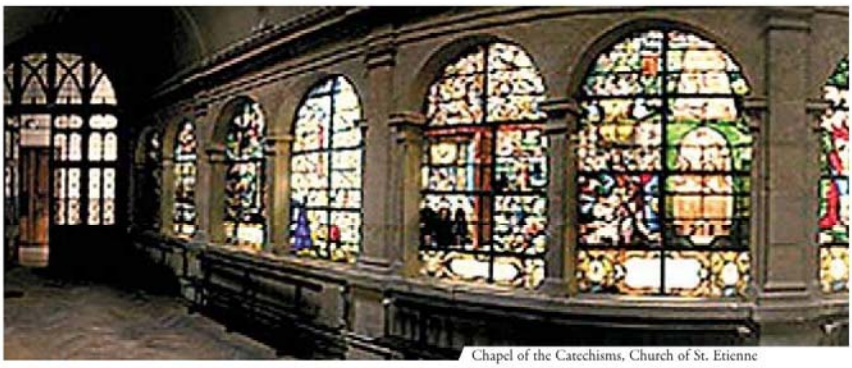
The man stabbed the Host with a knife and the Host began to bleed. The blood filled the container in which he had placed the Host. Panic-stricken, the man decided to throw the Host into the fire, but the Host came out of the fire by itself. Desperate, he threw the Host into boiling water and the Host freed itself from the water hovering in mid-air and then taking the form of a crucifix. Finally, he deposited the Host in the bowl of a parishioner of Saint-Jean-en-Grève who brought it to her parish priest. Over the centuries, the Host remained in a small reliquary in the church of Saint-Jean. During the French Revolution it was lost without a trace."

Here are some other equally significant facts: The ecclesiastical authorities, the people and the king decided to transform the home of the one who desecrated the Host into a chapel where the Sacred Host would be kept; the confiscation of the house of Jonathas, called "The House of Miracles," by King Phillip the Fair which was registered in a bill of sale from 1291; the transformation of the house into an oratory after the Bull that was obtained from Pope Boniface VIII; the name of the "Rue du Dieu bouilli" (The Street of God-boiled) given by the people of Paris to the "Rue des Jardins"; the Eucharistic celebration in the Chapel des Billettes of the Department of the Reparation on the second Sundays of Advent and Lent.

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Eucharistic Miracle of
PARIS
FRANCE, 1290

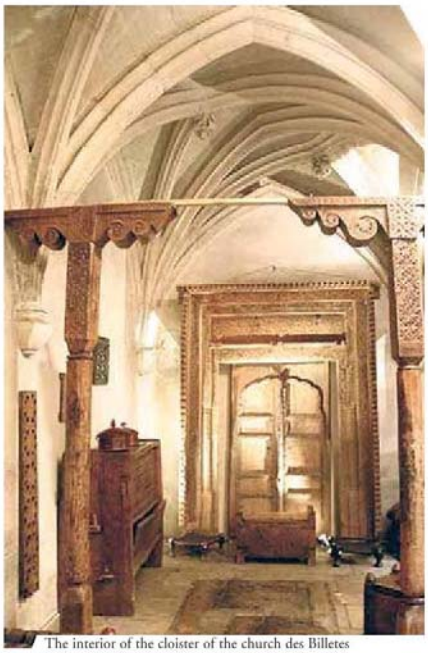
Desperate, he threw the Host into boiling water and the Host freed itself from the water hovering in mid-air and then taking the form of a crucifix.


Chapel of the Catechisms, Church of St. Etienne


The Triumph of the Eucharist


Cloister des Billetes which has today become a Protestant church


Ancient carvings which represent the events of the miracle


The interior of the cloister of the church des Billetes

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Note the reference in the website to Reverend Fr. Roberto Coggi, O.P. , who also publishes “Little Catechism on the Eucharist” for High School age children particularly.

Saint Mary Parish, Winchester, MA maintains a display of six of these miracles in poster size in their parish hall. The entire collection is available for use in parishes. **(this displayed at Holy Ghost)**

Illness and Final days

On 1 October 2006, Acutis developed an inflammation of the throat. His parents took him to a doctor who diagnosed parotitis and dehydration, which a second doctor, a family friend, confirmed. A few days later, Acutis' pain worsened and he had blood in his urine. By Sunday, 8 October, Acutis was too weak to get out of bed to go to Mass.

Acutis was taken to a clinic that specialized in blood diseases and was diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukemia. He was given little chance of recovery. He was rushed to intensive care and put on a respirator. After a sleepless night, Acutis was transferred to San Gerardo Hospital north of Milan, one of only three hospitals in Italy equipped to treat his condition.

The hospital staff called in their chaplain and he performed the anointing of the sick. When a nurse came in to care for Acutis, Acutis asked her not to wake his parents since they were already very tired and he did not want to worry them more.

Acutis offered his suffering both for Pope Benedict XVI and for the Catholic Church, saying: "I offer to the Lord the sufferings that I will have to undergo for the Pope and for the Church." The doctors treating his final illness had asked him if he was in great pain, to which he replied, "There are people who suffer much more than me". His final words to his mother were:

Mom, don't be afraid. Since Jesus became a man, death has become the passage towards life, and we don't need to flee it. Let us prepare ourselves to experience something extraordinary in the eternal life.

Death and funeral

Acutis fell into a coma and was taken to the intensive care unit where he underwent a blood-cleansing treatment. After a cerebral hemorrhage, he was pronounced brain-dead on 11 October, aged 15. Acutis died the next day, 12 October 2006, at 6:45 p.m. His parents brought his body home, where people came for four days to pay their last respects. A crowd of strangers attended his funeral, including young people who had abandoned the Church and those who returned for a memorial Mass three months later.

“When I saw the coffin leave the room with my son inside,” she continues,” I thought of his words: ‘Mom, even if all our dreams were to fall apart, we could never allow cynicism to take over and harden our hearts. From each disappointment, a new dream is born.’”

“There are no coincidences,” she asserts. “Nothing that happens to us is casual.” Despite her schooling, Antonia had only ever attended three Masses: her first Communion,

Exhumation to Assisi

It was Acutis' final wish to be buried in Assisi. On 6 April 2019, his body was brought to the Sanctuary of the Spoliation and venerated at its final resting place. Overnight, the procession stopped at the Cathedral of San Rufino and the diocesan choir sang a Non io, ma Dio, ("Not me, but God"), a hymn especially composed for the occasion by Marco Mammoli.

Legacy



Tomb of Carlo Acutis at the Sanctuary of the Spoliation in Assisi, Italy

Following the Catholic Church's recognition of a miracle in 2020 that was attributed to Acutis's intercession, Antonia told the press that her son had appeared to her in dreams saying that he would be not only beatified but also canonized a saint in the future. A website was created for his canonization cause. Others were created for educators, young people, and prayer groups, and for each of the four exhibitions that he inspired.

Praise and life adaptations

Acutis once said, "We are all born originals, but many of us die as photocopies." In the document that concluded the Synod on Young People in 2018, Pope Francis used the phrase and praised him thusly:

Carlo did not fall into a trap. He saw that many young people, if they seem to be different, end up, in reality, looking like each other, by running behind what powerful people impose on them via mechanisms of consumption and stupor. In this way, they do not let the gifts that the Lord has made for them flow into them. They do not offer the world these personal and unique gifts that the Lord has sown in each one of them.

Francis also called Acutis a model for people who live normal lives to grow in holiness.

In April 2022, the first life-sized statue of Acutis in the United Kingdom was erected at Carfin Grotto, North Lanarkshire, Scotland. A stained-glass window dedicated to Acutis was installed in St Aldhelm's Church, Malmesbury later in the same year, with his image chosen to connect with younger parishioners. In 2024, Timothy Schmalz created a sculpture of Acutis featuring a crucified image of Jesus emerging from his chest.

Relics of Carlo Acutis, along with his Eucharistic miracles photo exhibition, have been touring around the world. Adaptations of Acutis' life story include a comic book and a video game.

Beatification



Santa Maria Maggiore, Assisi, Acutis's burial place

The call for Acutis to be beatified began not long after his death. On 12 October 2012, the sixth anniversary of his death, the Archdiocese of Milan opened the cause for canonization.

The campaign gained momentum on 13 May 2013, when the Congregation for the Causes of Saints issued a nihil obstat stating there was nothing preventing the cause from moving forward. He was then named a Servant of God, the first stage on the path towards sainthood. The Lombardy Episcopal Conference approved the petition for the official canonization cause to proceed at a meeting in 2013.

The opening of the diocesan investigation was held on 15 February 2013, with Cardinal Angelo Scola inaugurating the process, and concluding it on 24 November 2016. Scola said Acutis was not called to be "a movie star, but a star in Heaven" and that Acutis was "a new treasure in the Ambrosian church". The formal introduction to the cause occurred on 13 May 2013, and Acutis became titled a "Servant of God". Pope Francis next confirmed his life as one of heroic virtue on 5 July 2018, declaring him Venerable.


Heart relic of Carlo Acutis

On 14 November 2019, the Vatican's Medical Council of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints expressed a positive opinion about a miracle in Brazil attributed to Acutis's intercession. Luciana Vianna had taken her son, Mattheus, who was born with a pancreatic defect that made eating difficult, to a prayer service. Beforehand, she had prayed a novena asking for the teenager Acutis's intercession. During the service, Mattheus had asked that he should not "throw up as much". Immediately following the service, he told his mother that he felt healed and asked for solid food when he came home. Until then, he had been on an all-liquid diet. After a detailed investigation, Pope Francis confirmed the miracle's authenticity in a decree on 21 February 2020, leading to Acutis's beatification.

Within a month of the decree, the beatification ceremony was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Italy, during which the country was placed on lockdown. It was rescheduled for 10 October 2020 and was held in the Upper Church of the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi in Assisi, Italy, with Cardinal Agostino Vallini presiding on the Pope's behalf. As of 2019, the postulator for Acutis's cause is Nicola Gori, a writer for L'Osservatore Romano.

Since the beatification ceremony on 10 October 2020, silent crowds have been filing past the exposed relics of the blessed youth in the one-time cathedral of Assisi, the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore.

Canonization process

On 23 May 2024, Pope Francis recognized a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Acutis. The miracle attributed to his intercession occurred in 2022 when a Costa Rican woman named Valeria had fallen off her bike and suffered a brain hemorrhage with doctors giving her a low chance of survival. Valeria's mother, Lilliana, prayed for the intercession of Acutis and visited his tomb. The same day, Valeria began to breathe independently again and was able to walk the next day with all evidence of the hemorrhage having disappeared.

On 1 July 2024, Pope Francis presided at an Ordinary Consistory of Cardinals, which approved the canonization of 15 people, including Blessed Carlo Acutis. The date of his formal canonization has not been announced.