

Dear Members,

If you love our Lord, especially in the Eucharist, love the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

If you love Our Lady, love the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

If you love the poor, love the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

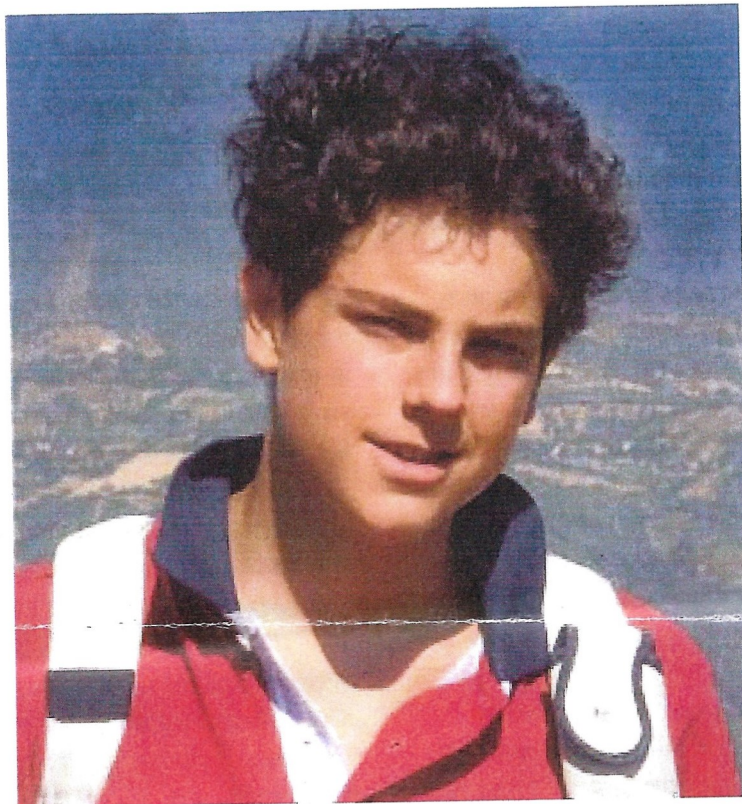
If you love catechizing and evangelizing, love the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

These are the lessons we are taught by the remarkably short, yet extraordinarily influential life of Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006), "the computer-coding teen who was the first millennial beatified in the Catholic Church," as author Courtney Mares described him in her excellent book *Blessed Carlo Acutis: A Saint in Sneakers*.

### HEAVEN'S HIGHWAY

Born in London, Carlo soon moved with his family back to Italy. A popular, funny kid who loved video games, computers, but above all else, God and neighbor, Carlo touched many, many souls during his short earthly life.

"He loved football, Pokémon, action films, and all animals (he had four dogs, two cats and many goldfish as pets)," said Corinna Turner in a 2020 article in *The Catholic Herald*. "From early childhood, his first love was Our Lord in the Eucharist. Neither of his parents were religious, yet from an early age Carlo never wanted to pass a church without going in to 'say hello to Jesus.' As a result, his mother came back to faith, then his father. ... Carlo's love, appreciation and reverence for the Eucharist were exceptional. 'The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven!' he would say. And, 'If we get in front of the sun, we get sun tans, but when



## BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS A HOLY MILLENNIAL, FOR THE HOLY SOULS

of a swift and severe case of leukemia. And yet he had all the wisdom of an old man who'd practiced the faith for many years.

Listen to how he responded to his diagnosis: "I offer to the Lord the sufferings that I will have to undergo for the Pope and for the Church, so as not to have to be in Purgatory and be able to go directly to heaven."

He had his priorities in order, no doubt about it. The many, many testimonies to his love and care for others that emerged after his death are among some of the greatest consolations to emerge in our troubled times. What hope, that one so young should have helped so many! He served the poor earnestly, with fervor, buying the homeless sleeping bags, going without so that he could do more for them, using his allowance to buy them

we get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist, we become Saints."

That love of the Eucharist helped inspire him later in life to put together the online information about Eucharistic Miracles that formed the basis of the International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles (see box for links). His work has inspired many other traveling exhibits (on Our Lady's apparitions; on the saints; on the four last things) that continue to tour the world, educating the public about the many extraordinary signs and wonders God has blessed us with to help encourage and confirm us in the faith.

### WISDOM

Amazingly, many of us shared our time on earth with him. Blessed Carlo Acutis was a very young man — only 15 — when he died

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food and warm drinks. And he knew them. They knew he knew them; they knew he loved them; they attended his funeral in great numbers, an echo of the extraordinary funeral of another young blessed, Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901-1925).

But Blessed Carlo had a truly Catholic view of the world. He didn't only help those who were poor in this life. He also dedicated himself with fervor to helping the poor in the next life, the Holy Souls in Purgatory, so dependent on our charity and our remembrance of them.

### DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

"Carlo's grandmother Luana remembers that Carlo often offered Masses, prayers, and periods of eucharistic adoration for the souls in purgatory. His devotions included the Divine Mercy Novena," Courtney Mares wrote. "Carlo asked his parents to pray this novena by Saint Faustina with him in the nine days before the feast, and Luana recalls that her grandson asked her to pray the novena twice. According to his postulator, 'Carlo was convinced that it was very difficult not to end up in [purgatory].' Carlo used the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska and Saint Catherine of Genoa, who wrote a treatise on purgatory, to convince others of the reality of purgatory and hell, and even debated a priest who denied their existence."

His mother, Antonia, had similar recollections. "He had a great devotion to the souls in purgatory. He liked to pray and apply indulgences to them."

"One of Carlo's favorite spots to pray in Assisi was the Porziuncola [more commonly spelled in English Portiuncula], the place where Saint Francis founded the Order of Friars Minor in 1209, entrusting it to the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. G. K. Chesterton wrote that the Porziuncola became 'the home of many homeless men.' It is also the location where Saint Clare received her religious habit from Francis and founded the

Poor Clares. ... The Porziuncola was one of the places in Assisi that Carlo sought out to pray for sinners and for the souls in purgatory, according to his mother. ... The Porziuncola Indulgence has been tied to this church for centuries."

From Assisi has sprung another holy young man in our own times. Let him be an inspiration to you! He shows us that the youth of today can fall in love with God, can come to know, love, and serve our Lord, even in the heart of the West, even with a love for modern technology and entertainment.

### LOVE OF THE POOR

Blessed Carlo shows us that the Eucharistic Lord is as present and as powerful to save and sanctify as ever. He shows us that when our proclamation of the Gospel is clearly, radiantly inspired by love of God and neighbor, both God and neighbor respond, and miracles of conversion take place. He shows us that love of the poor, both on earth and in Purgatory, is not an optional extra for our faith, but rather cuts to the heart of sanctity, of the Beatitudes, of the Gospel.

I was happy to celebrate Mass at the tomb of St. Francis in the lower crypt of his Basilica in Assisi several times, having been ordained on his feast day in 1986, as he is one of the four patrons of the Marians. Our present Holy Father took inspiration from St. Francis for his name. It was St. Francis' love of Christ in the Eucharist and the natural hunger of each human that only Christ can satisfy that inspired Bl. Carlo.

Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us! Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us!



Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC  
Spiritual director of the Holy Souls Sodality

### Monthly prayer intention:

That, in this new year, the saints will obtain for us their love of the Holy Souls.

## The Legacy of Blessed Carlo Acutis

Blessed Carlo's work didn't end at his death. Rather, the interest in his work promoting Eucharistic and other miracles has exploded since his death. You can visit the websites that have resulted, and share them with your family and friends. Tell them that a young millennial started all this, and share with them Blessed Carlo's story.

- Official Website of the Carlo Acutis Association and the Cause for Canonization of Carlo Acutis: [CarloAcutis.com](http://CarloAcutis.com)
- The Eucharistic Miracles of the World: [MiracoliEucaristici.org](http://MiracoliEucaristici.org)
- The Appeals of Our Lady: Apparitions and Marian Shrines in the World: [TheMarianApparitions.org/en/avm](http://TheMarianApparitions.org/en/avm)
- Apparitions of Angels and Demons (in Italian): [CarloAcutis.net/pages/angeli/index.html](http://CarloAcutis.net/pages/angeli/index.html)
- Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise: [CarloAcutis.net/InfernoPurgatorioParadiso/en\\_download.html](http://CarloAcutis.net/InfernoPurgatorioParadiso/en_download.html)

## HOLY SOULS SODALITY

Call: 1-800-462-7426

Email: [HolySouls@Marian.org](mailto:HolySouls@Marian.org)

Visit [PrayForSouls.org](http://PrayForSouls.org) for additional resources or membership information.

As a patron of the Holy Souls Sodality, you are committed to helping the Holy Souls to Heaven through your daily prayers and sacrifices. This is one of the greatest acts of charity because they cannot pray for themselves. The Marian Fathers at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy offer a daily Mass for the Holy Souls and for your intentions. You receive this newsletter, published by the Association of Marian Helpers, to deepen your devotion to the Holy Souls and to offer you ways to encourage your family and friends to assist the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Holy Souls Sodality, Association of Marian Helpers, Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263

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