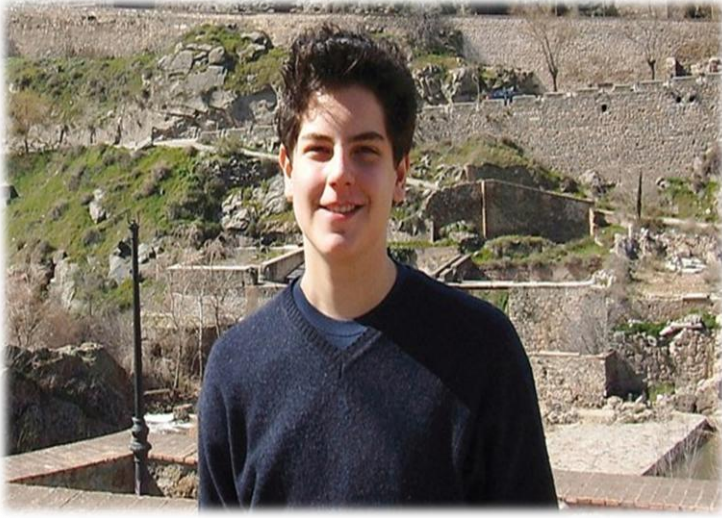




~~ Saint Carlo Acutis ~~

He was a British-born Italian teenager known for his devotion to the Eucharist, which became a core theme of his life prior to his death from leukemia at the age of 15 in 2006. In 2013, a cause for his canonization was opened. He was beatified by Pope Francis on October 10, 2020.

After a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Acutis was confirmed in May 2024, Pope Francis granted approval on July 1, 2024 to continue forward with canonization. He will be canonized on September 7th in St. Peter's Square.

Carlo Acutis was born in London, England, on May 3, 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's maternal great-grandmother was born in the United States and came from a family of landowners in New York.

His baptism took place on May 18, 1991 in the Church of Our Lady of Dolours, Chelsea.

Neither of his parents were religious.

They worked in family businesses and he was cared for by an Irish nanny. Aside from a few visits to a daycare center, most of Acutis's early care came from nannies. During one daycare visit, he was bullied by other children. A 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.

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".

Acutis attended the San Carlo Institute in Milan beginning in September 1997; 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 Istituto Leone XIII high school. Although he was an average student, he liked to read and pursued other academic areas independently, including computer science and teaching himself the saxophone. Acutis also had a tutor who helped him with his homework and followed him to church. Acutis owned a PlayStation and enjoyed *Halo*, *Mario*, and *Pokémon*, although he limited himself to just one hour of gaming a week to avoid addiction.

When Acutis was 12 years old, he became a catechist in his parish, Santa Maria Segreta. 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's 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.

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.



On October 1, 2006, Acutis developed an inflammation of the throat. His parents took him to a doctor who diagnosed parotitis and dehydration. A few days later, Acutis's pain worsened and he had blood in his urine. By October 8th, 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".

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 October 11th, he died the next day, October 12, 2006, at 6:45 p.m. His parents brought his body home to lie in repose, and people came to pay their last respects for four days. 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.



It was Acutis's final wish to be buried in Assisi. On April 6, 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 "Not me, but God", a hymn especially composed for the occasion. While Acutis's body may appear incorrupt behind the view glass, it is actually encased in a wax layer that was molded to look like his body prior to burial—this practice is common for the presentation of saints' bodies so that pilgrims can see the saints as they were when they died. The rector of Santa Maria Maggiore in Assisi, where Carlo's tomb is housed, said that Acutis's body was discovered "fully integral," though not intact.

The opening of the diocesan investigation was held on February 15, 2013, with Cardinal Angelo Scola inaugurating the process,

and concluding it on November 24, 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 May 13, 2013, and Acutis became titled a "Servant of God".

Pope Francis next confirmed his life as one of heroic virtue on July 5, 2018, declaring him Venerable.

On November 14, 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 kissed the clothing relic of Acutis and asked he should not "throw up as much". Immediately following the Mass, 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 February 21, 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 October 10, 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.

Since the beatification ceremony his relics have been on display with his tomb in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore.

In his memory there has been a traveling photo exhibition of all the Eucharistic miracle sites. It has 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.

On May 23, 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 June 13, 2025, Pope Leo XIV announced at a general consistory that Acutis would officially be canonized alongside Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati on September 7, 2025.