

BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Carlo Acutis

Life, prayer, novena and pilgrimage

Feast day: October 12

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IN BRIEF

Saint Carlo Acutis

Italian teenager devoted to the Eucharist and computers, who died at fifteen and was canonized in 2025.

Feast day	October 12
Born	May 3, 1991, London (United Kingdom)
Died	October 12, 2006, Monza (Italy)
Canonized	September 7, 2025, by Pope Leo XIV
Era	21st century
Patron saint of	young people, computer programmers, the internet (popular devotion), first communicants

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Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Carlo Acutis

Carlo Acutis was an Italian teenager with a passion for computers who died of a sudden leukemia at fifteen, on October 12, 2006, in Monza. He put his talents at the service of what mattered most to him: the Eucharist, which he called his "highway to Heaven." Beatified in Assisi in 2020, he was canonized by Pope Leo XIV on September 7, 2025, together with Pier Giorgio Frassati. He is the first saint of the generation born in the 1990s, and his feast is kept on October 12.

Who was Saint Carlo Acutis?

Carlo was born on May 3, 1991, in London, where his Italian parents, Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano, were working at the time. A few months later the family settled in Milan. His parents rarely went to church, yet the boy was drawn to prayer from an early age: he asked to go into churches to "say hello to Jesus." He made his First Communion at seven, on June 16, 1998, with special permission, at the monastery of Bernaga near Milan. From then on he went to Mass every day and prayed the rosary.

In every other way he was a boy of his time. He loved soccer, video games (which he limited himself to one hour a week), films and animals, especially his dogs and cats, which starred in his little home videos. At the Jesuit Leone XIII high school in Milan, he was known for his good humor and for standing up for classmates who were left out.

Key dates

- **May 3, 1991**: Born in London to an Italian family, which soon settles in Milan.
- **June 16, 1998**: First Communion at seven, at the monastery of Bernaga.

- **2002-2005**: He designs the exhibition and website on Eucharistic miracles around the world.
- **October 12, 2006**: Dies of acute leukemia at San Gerardo hospital in Monza, aged fifteen, offering his suffering for the Pope and the Church.
- **July 5, 2018**: Pope Francis recognizes his heroic virtues; he is declared Venerable.
- **2019**: Pope Francis cites him in Christus Vivit; his remains are moved to the Sanctuary of the Renunciation in Assisi.
- **October 10, 2020**: Beatified in Assisi, in the Basilica of Saint Francis.
- **September 7, 2025**: Canonized by Pope Leo XIV in Saint Peter's Square, together with Pier Giorgio Frassati.

"The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven"

Daily Mass and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament were the heart of Carlo's life. He liked to point out that people queue for hours for a concert or a match, yet hurry past the tabernacle where Jesus is present. He went to confession every week and saw the Eucharist as the shortest road to holiness. His faith was contagious: several people around him, including a household employee of the family, said they found faith again through him.

That faith took simple, concrete forms. With his pocket money he bought sleeping bags for the homeless he passed on his way to school and brought them meals. He was a catechist in his parish of Santa Maria Segreta and helped younger children prepare for confirmation.



The reliquary of Saint Carlo Acutis at the Sanctuary of the Renunciation in Assisi.

A "cyber-apostle" of the Eucharist

Carlo taught himself several programming languages, video editing and web design. From the age of eleven he worked for several years on a project to catalogue the Eucharistic miracles recognized around the world, from Lanciano to Buenos Aires, and present them on panels and a website. His exhibition on Eucharistic miracles has since been shown in thousands of parishes on five continents. He also began a project on the apparitions of the Virgin Mary.

In the apostolic exhortation *Christus Vivit* (2019, nos. 104 to 106), Pope Francis held him up as an example for young people: Carlo used new communication technology to spread the Gospel without letting it imprison him. He is often called the patron saint of the internet, although the Church has not officially proclaimed him as such.

Illness and death at fifteen

In early October 2006, Carlo felt tired and thought he had the flu. Doctors found an acute and very aggressive leukemia. Moved to San Gerardo hospital in Monza, he told his mother: "I offer all the suffering I will have to endure to the Lord, for the Pope and for the Church." He died on October 12, 2006, a few days after the diagnosis. As he had wished, he rests in Assisi, the city of Saint Francis, whom he deeply loved.

Miracles and canonization

The first miracle approved for his beatification was the healing, in 2013, of a little Brazilian boy from Campo Grande, Matheus, who suffered from a serious malformation of the pancreas, after he touched a relic of Carlo. The second, recognized in 2024 for the canonization, concerns Valeria, a Costa Rican student who suffered a severe head injury in an accident in Florence in 2022 and recovered after her mother prayed at Carlo's tomb in Assisi.

The canonization was first planned for April 27, 2025, during the Jubilee of Teenagers, but was postponed after the death of Pope Francis on April 21. It was celebrated on September 7, 2025, by Pope Leo XIV in Saint Peter's Square, together with that of Pier Giorgio Frassati, another young Italian layman.



Santa Maria Maggiore in Assisi, the Sanctuary of the Renunciation, where Carlo Acutis rests.

Why does Saint Carlo Acutis speak to so many people?

Carlo Acutis shows that holiness is not reserved for extraordinary people or distant centuries. He lived in jeans and sneakers, with a computer and a games console, yet he gave God the first place. One of his sayings has become famous: "All people are born as originals, but many die as photocopies." For him, staying close to Jesus was the way to become fully oneself.

Sayings of Saint Carlo Acutis

- "The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven."
- "All people are born as originals, but many die as photocopies."
- "To be always united with Jesus: that is my plan of life."
- "Sadness is looking at oneself; happiness is looking toward God."

Where to pray to Saint Carlo Acutis

- **Assisi** (Italy): the Sanctuary of the Renunciation, in the church of Santa Maria Maggiore, where his body rests in a glass reliquary.
- **Milan**: the church of Santa Maria Segreta, his parish, where he went to Mass every day.

To pray with him, read the prayer to Saint Carlo Acutis or follow the novena to Saint Carlo Acutis, from October 3 to 11.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Carlo Acutis

About this prayer

Since his beatification in 2020 and his canonization in 2025, Saint Carlo Acutis has been prayed to by young people all over the world, and also by parents, the sick and people who work with the internet. The text below is an original composition by Saintspedia. It draws on what shaped his life: love of the Eucharist, joy, charity toward the poor and the offering of his illness.

Prayer to Saint Carlo Acutis

Saint Carlo Acutis,
you found in the Eucharist
your highway to Heaven:
teach me to give Jesus the first place in my life.

You loved sports, games and computers
without ever letting them imprison you:
help me to live in today's world
with a heart that stays free for God and for others.

You shared your pocket money with the poor
and stood up for those who were left out:
open my eyes to the people who need me.

You offered your illness for the Pope and for the Church:
support the sick, young people who suffer
and parents who are afraid for their children.

Today I entrust to you this intention: (name your intention).
Present it to Jesus, whom you loved so much,
and to the Virgin Mary, your mother in Heaven.

Saint Carlo Acutis, pray for us. Amen.

Original text by Saintspedia.

A short prayer for young people

Saint Carlo, watch over the young people of our time. May they not die as photocopies, but become fully themselves by staying united with Jesus. Amen.

Original text by Saintspedia.

When to pray this prayer

You can pray to him at any time, especially on October 12, his feast day, before or after Mass, a time of adoration or an exam. Many people also entrust to him a sick young person, a teenager drifting away from the faith or an online project meant to do good. For a longer time of prayer, follow the novena to Saint Carlo Acutis and read the life of Saint Carlo Acutis.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Carlo Acutis

This novena is an original composition by Saintspedia, inspired by the life and words of Saint Carlo Acutis. It is not an official liturgical text. To finish it on the eve of his feast, begin on October 3; it ends on October 11, before the feast on October 12. It can also be prayed at any time of year, for a young person, someone who is sick or any intention close to your heart.

How to pray this novena

Each day, entrust your intention to God, read the meditation, say the prayer of the day, then an Our Father and a Hail Mary. The suggested act helps carry the prayer into the day. If you miss a day, simply pick up where you left off.

Day 1: A child who wanted to greet Jesus

As a small boy, Carlo asked to go into churches to say hello to Jesus. No one had really taught him this: he simply understood that Jesus was there.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I entrust my intention to you for these nine days. Give me a simple heart like Carlo's as a child.

Act of the day: Step into a church, even for a few minutes, to greet Jesus.

Day 2: The Eucharist, highway to Heaven

From his First Communion at seven, Carlo went to Mass every day. For him, receiving Jesus was the most direct road to God.

Prayer: Saint Carlo, help me discover the greatness of the Mass and receive Jesus with love.

Act of the day: Go to a weekday Mass, or read the Gospel of the day.

Day 3: Time given to God

Carlo noticed that people wait for hours for a concert or a match, yet hurry past the tabernacle. He made time for adoration.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to stay with you without looking at my watch.

Act of the day: Spend ten minutes of silence before the Blessed Sacrament or in your room.

Day 4: Screens in their proper place

Passionate about computers, Carlo still limited himself to one hour of video games a week. He wanted to stay free and not be swallowed up.

Prayer: Saint Carlo, help me use screens for good, and know when to turn them off.

Act of the day: Spend an evening without screens, and offer the time to God.

Day 5: The internet at the service of the Gospel

Carlo used his talents for the faith by creating an exhibition and a website on Eucharistic miracles. Everyone can make their gifts bear fruit for others.

Prayer: Lord, show me how to put my talents at the service of your Gospel.

Act of the day: Share a message of peace or faith online, with kindness.

Day 6: Sharing with the poor

With his pocket money, Carlo bought sleeping bags and meals for the homeless people of his neighborhood in Milan.

Prayer: Saint Carlo, open my eyes to the poor I pass every day.

Act of the day: Give a meal, a piece of clothing or some time to someone in need.

Day 7: Standing up for the vulnerable

At school, Carlo stood up for students who were mocked or left out, especially those with a disability.

Prayer: Lord, give me the courage to defend those who are rejected.

Act of the day: Make a gesture of friendship toward someone who is isolated.

Day 8: Illness offered

Struck by a sudden leukemia, Carlo offered his suffering for the Pope and for the Church. He died at fifteen, in peace.

Prayer: Saint Carlo, support the sick, especially children and young people, and those who care for them.

Act of the day: Pray for someone who is sick, or visit them.

Day 9: An original, not a photocopy

"All people are born as originals, but many die as photocopies," Carlo said. Staying united with Jesus lets us become fully ourselves.

Prayer: Saint Carlo Acutis, present to Jesus the intention I have entrusted to you. Help me become the person God wants me to be. Amen.

Act of the day: If you can, go to Mass on October 12, or pray the prayer to Saint Carlo Acutis again.

PILGRIMAGE

Sanctuary of the Renunciation in Assisi, Tomb of Saint Carlo Acutis

The Sanctuary of the Renunciation (Santuario della Spogliazione) in Assisi is housed in the church of Santa Maria Maggiore, the city's former cathedral, next to the bishop's residence. Saint Carlo Acutis has rested here since 2019. His body, dressed in jeans, a sweatshirt and sneakers, can be seen in a glass reliquary. Since his beatification in 2020, and even more since his canonization in 2025, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims come here every year.



The church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Assisi, home of the Sanctuary of the Renunciation.

Why the "Sanctuary of the Renunciation"?

The name recalls a famous moment in the life of Saint Francis of Assisi. Around 1206, before Bishop Guido and a crowd of onlookers, the young Francis gave back to his father, Pietro Bernardone, his money and even the clothes he was wearing, so as to belong to God alone. Tradition places the scene in the hall of the neighboring bishop's palace, now open to visitors. The diocese of Assisi established the sanctuary in 2017 to keep the memory of this act of poverty.

Laying Carlo Acutis to rest here was no accident. The young Milanese loved Assisi, where his family had a house, and admired the joyful poverty of Saint Francis. He had asked to be buried in this city.

The tomb of Saint Carlo Acutis

First buried in the cemetery of Assisi, Carlo was moved to the church of Santa Maria Maggiore on April 6, 2019. For his beatification in October 2020, his remains were placed on view in a glass reliquary in a side chapel. His body underwent the normal process of decomposition: it was treated for preservation, and his face is covered by a silicone mask modeled on his features.

In the heart of Assisi

The sanctuary stands in the historic center, on the Piazza del Vescovado. A visit to Carlo Acutis is easy to combine with the great Franciscan sites:

- the Basilica of Saint Francis, where Saint Francis is buried;
- the Basilica of Saint Clare, with the San Damiano crucifix;
- the convent of San Damiano, below the town;
- the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels and the Portiuncula, in the plain.

Practical tips

- **Getting there**: Assisi is in Umbria, about 25 km (15 miles) from Perugia. Assisi railway station, in the plain, is linked to the town center by bus.
- **Visiting**: admission is free. There is often a line, especially on weekends and around October 12.
- **Mass**: Mass is celebrated every day in the church; times are posted by the sanctuary.
- **Dress**: shoulders and knees covered, and silence in the chapel of the tomb.

Praying to Saint Carlo Acutis

Before or after your visit, you can say the prayer to Saint Carlo Acutis or follow the novena to Saint Carlo Acutis. To get to know him better, read the life of Saint Carlo Acutis.

CREDITS

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