

Jane R12

St Carlo Acutis

St. Carlo Acutis was the first millennial saint, born in London, 1991 to Italian parents. He grew up in Milan, Italy, and from a young age respected God very much, even though his parents were not faithful. He loved to pray every single day and even went as far as to pick flowers for the statue of Mary. He showed strong devotion to the Eucharist and Our Lady, and people could tell Carlo was a special child.

Carlo was social, popular, and bright, graduating from middle school with a distinction. He always stood up for the bullied and unpopular, and everybody felt safe in his presence. He valued his friends and wanted them to know and love God just like he did in order to live virtuous lives. He didn't care about what others thought of him.

As special as he was, he wasn't haughty at all. He was a normal young boy who loved football, quizzes, action movies, kites, and all kinds of video games. His particular favourites were Super Mario and Pokémon. He loved his four dogs, two cats, and goldfish, and liked picking up litter to help the environment. He volunteered as a catechist to support people preparing for their first confirmation.

Not only was he interested in technology, but he was also the master of coding. He read complicated books, and as a result, his technological prowess was that of a college (university) student. He taught himself how to understand computers and create websites. Once he helped make a website for his school and parish, which brought together two of his biggest passions: technology and the Eucharist, he realised he wanted to do more.

He researched all the miracles he could get his hands on, from various times and places throughout the world. He even travelled to faraway shrines with his parents to collect information and take photos. All of this was to be added to his new website, dedicated to the Eucharist and spreading God's word.

He finally completed the huge project in 2006, which blew up on the internet. It was even recognised by the Pope and the Catholic Church as an important tool for teaching the Eucharist. Then suddenly, in October 2006, he fell gravely ill. He was diagnosed with severe leukaemia, and he knew he didn't have much longer to live. He offered up all of his pain to the Pope and the Catholic Church, so he could skip Purgatory and go directly to heaven. He even refrained the nurses from waking his mother when he was in pain.

Carlo Acutis died on the 12th of October 2006, just a week after he was diagnosed. He was only 15 years old. In 2020, he was beatified by the Catholic Church. He was officially canonised as a saint on the 7th of September, 2025.