

"Not me, but God!"
ST CARLO ACUTIS



RESOURCE PACK FOR
POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS
/ YOUTH GROUPS



This resource book is designed to celebrate the life of Saint Carlo Acutis, an incredible example for young people. Feel free to use whatever elements of this resource you feel best suit the ability and age of the young people you teach / work with.



LINKS TO JUNIOR CYCLE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1.5 explore the presence of religious themes in contemporary culture through an examination of art, music, literature or film
- 1.8 describe the role of prayer in the lives of people of faith
- 1.12 synthesise and consider the insights gained about how people express and live out their beliefs, religious or otherwise
- 2.8 present stories of individuals or groups in the history of two major world religions that have had a positive impact on the lives of people because of their commitment to living out their beliefs.
- 2.9 describe how the faith of a believer can change at different stages in life
- 3.1 examine different sources of values and ways in which the values of a person relate to their everyday choices, their relationships, and their responsibilities to others
- 3.2 reflect upon and discuss what it means to be moral, why people living in society need to be moral and what are the influences on and the sources of authority for a person's moral decision-making

JUNIOR CYCLE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - CBA 1: A PERSON OF COMMITMENT

During a period of three weeks, with support/guidance by the teacher, students will research and report on a person whose religious beliefs or worldview have had a positive impact on the world, past or present.

LINKS TO LEAVING CERTIFICATE NON-EXAM FRAMEWORK FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Section A: The Search for Meaning

Topic 1: Contemporary expressions of the search for meaning.

- The great questions concerning the goal and purpose of life, the meaning of good and evil and the experience of suffering.

Topic 3: The meaning of suffering and evil as understood by a religious perspective.

- Examples of people whose lives are influenced by their faith.
- The role of religious faith in Ireland today

Section D: Morality in Action

Topic 1: Becoming Moral

- Why be moral? Influences on moral principles: peers, family, media, culture, religion, etc.
- The role of religion in informing conscience?

Topic 2: Morality and Religious Belief:

- The Christian understanding of sin and reconciliation

Topic 3: Moral Dilemmas

- Examples of moral decision-making in action.
- The role of religion in moral decision-making.

Section E: God-Talk

Topic 1: My Image of God

- My image of God.
- Images of God in art/music/literature & contemporary culture.

Topic 3: God "in the bits'n'pieces of the everyday":

- Implications of images of God for life.
- Signs and rituals– special moments of God's presence.

Section G: Celebrating Faith

Topic 2: Prayer

- Exploring prayer as a need to communicate with God.
- Examples of prayer from different religious traditions.
- Sacred spaces

Topic 3: Meditation and Contemplation

- The human need for reflection in a busy world
- The use of sacred and inspirational texts in meditation

Section H: Story

Topic 1: Story

- Stories that carry meaning and have transformative power.



Topic 3: God's unfolding Story

- Where is God speaking today?
- All part of God's story?
- The student's story



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ASCEND YM: THE LIFE OF CARLO ACUTIS



Saint Carlo Acutis Resource Pack



THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF CARLO ACUTIS (LEGO)



SAINTS IN SEVEN: THE LIFE OF CARLO ACUTIS



INDEX



"OUR AIM HAS
TO BE THE
INFINITE AND
NOT THE FINITE.
THE INFINITE IS
OUR HOMELAND.
WE HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN EXPECTED
IN HEAVEN!"
ST. CARLO
ACUTIS



ACCOMPANYING CANVA PRESENTATION AVAILABLE
- JUST CLICK THE IMAGE OR SCAN THE CODE

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WHO WAS CARLO ACUTIS?

"HAPPINESS IS LOOKING TOWARDS GOD. SADNESS IS LOOKING TOWARDS YOURSELF."



READ THE SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF CARLO ACUTIS OR WATCH AN ANIMATED VERSION HERE:



Carlo Acutis was born in London in 1991 to Italian parents and grew up in Milan. From a very early age, people felt that Carlo was a particularly special boy. Carlo showed a great devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and to Our Lady, even though his parents didn't practice their faith.

Growing up, Carlo was lively, popular and cheerful. He wasn't always the most prepared for class and he often distracted others during boring lessons, but when this was brought to his attention by his teachers, he stopped completely.

A bright lad, Carlo finished middle school with distinction. He had a particular gift for kindness. He stood up for those who were picked on by others because they were different. He wanted his friends to live good virtuous lives, and he challenged the other students in his class to value the gift of modesty and he stood up for the gift of life. Above all, he wanted his friends to know and love God like he did. Carlo was his own man - he wasn't bothered by what other people thought about him.

"ALL PEOPLE ARE BORN AS ORIGINALS, BUT MANY DIE AS PHOTOCOPIES."

Young Carlo didn't just talk to his schoolmates only about prayer. He was a normal teenager, who loved joking and laughing, hanging out with his friends, making videos with them; he loved quizzes, flying kites, watching action films, playing soccer and being on his Playstation too. He loved Pokemon and Super Mario. He loved his dogs, cats and even his goldfish. His friends knew Carlo was always there for them, especially if they were going through a hard time in their families. Carlo also volunteered as a catechist for younger children preparing for their confirmation.



"THE EUCHARIST IS MY HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN!"

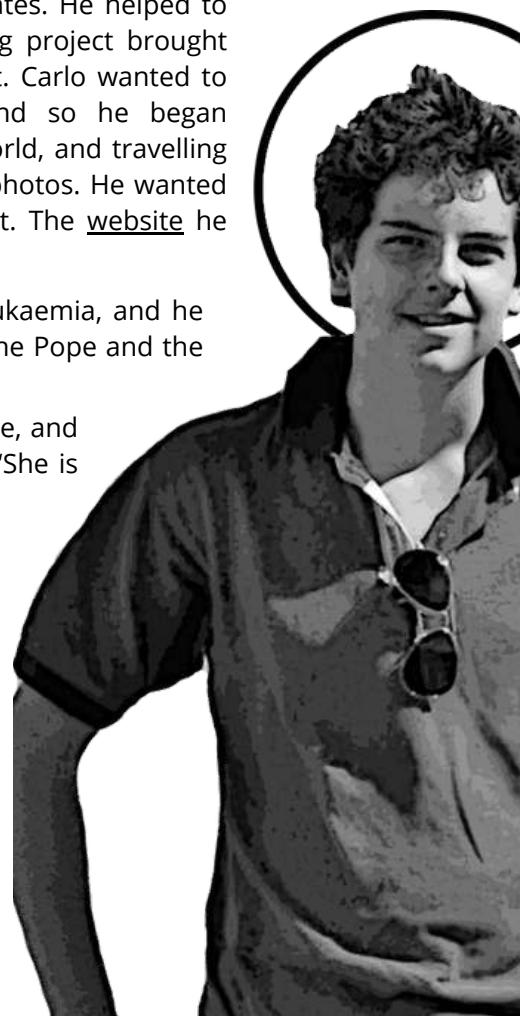
Carlo was really talented with computers. He taught himself to design websites and could understand computers as well as college graduates. He helped to create a website for his school and his parish, but his big project brought together two of his passions: technology and the Eucharist. Carlo wanted to catalogue all the Eucharistic miracles in the world, and so he began researching and collecting information from all over the world, and travelling to various shrines with his parents when he could to take photos. He wanted people to know that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. The website he started is still on the internet today!

When Carlo was just 15, he got really sick with a very aggressive form of Leukaemia, and he knew he didn't have long to live. He offered up all his pain and suffering "for the Pope and the Church, so as not to undergo Purgatory and enter heaven directly."

Even though he was really sick in hospital, he still thought more of other people, and nurses noticed that he didn't want to wake his mother when he was in pain: "She is very tired as well, and she will only worry even more about me."

Carlo died on 12 October 2006, just one week after being diagnosed, and was buried in Assisi where he loved to visit. A huge crowd of people came to his funeral. What many people didn't know about Carlo was that as well as his online work in spreading the faith, he was also giving up a lot of time and his own money to help the poor and homeless, bringing food and sleeping bags to people throughout Milan.

Carlo, our millennial saint, was canonised by Pope Leo XIV on September 7th 2025, and showed us that holiness and even sainthood are possible for teenagers and young people today, in the ordinary circumstances of everyday life. Saints can wear Nike and jeans, play computer games and surf the net too!



1. What is your initial response to the life of Saint Carlo Acutis?
2. If you could ask him one question, what would it be?



"THE MORE WE RECEIVE
THE EUCHARIST, THE
MORE WE BECOME
SIMILAR TO JESUS AND
ALREADY ON THIS
EARTH WE FORETASTE
HEAVEN!"

IN HIS WORDS



LOOK UP 1 TIMOTHY 4:12 - HOW DOES THIS
QUOTE RELATE TO THE LIFE OF CARLO ACUTIS?



CHOOSE ONE OF THE QUOTES BELOW FROM SAINT CARLO ACUTIS AND
REFLECT ON ITS MEANING FOR YOUR OWN LIFE. ASK CARLO TO PRAY
FOR YOU AND ANY PROBLEMS YOU'RE FACING AT THE MOMENT.



- "The Eucharist is my highway to heaven!"
- "All people are born as originals, but many die as photocopies."
- "To be always close to Jesus, that's my life plan."
- "Happiness is looking towards God. Sadness is looking towards yourself."
- "The more we receive the Eucharist, the more we become similar to Jesus and already on this earth we foretaste Heaven!"
- "If we get in front of the sun, we get sun tans. If we get in front of the Eucharist, we become saints."
- "I am happy to die because I have lived my life without wasting even a minute of it doing things that wouldn't have pleased God."
- "Money is only ragged paper: what counts in life is the nobility of the soul, that is, the way that one loves God and loves one's neighbour."
- "Our aim has to be the infinite and not the finite. The infinite is our homeland. We have always been expected in heaven!"
- "Life is a gift, because as long as we are on earth, we can increase our level of love."
- "What does it matter if you can win a thousand battles if you cannot win against your own corrupt passions? The real battle is with ourselves."

O God our Father, we thank you for giving us Carlo, a model of life for young people, and a message of love for all. You made him fall in love with your son Jesus, making the Eucharist his "highway to heaven."

You gave him Mary as a beloved mother, and you made him, through the Rosary, a cantor of her tenderness. Receive his prayer for us. Look above all upon the poor, whom he loved and assisted. Grant me too, through his intercession, the grace that I need (mention your intention).

Our Father | Hail Mary | Glory Be. St Carlo Acutis - pray for us!

(adapted from CTS Books)



PRAYER MOMENT

Listen to the following songs which capture the life and message of Carlo Acutis

- Not I, but You O Lord (The Song of Carlo) (Bro. Christoffer Denzell Aquino SHMI)
- Lord I give you my heart (MW Smith)
- While I'm Waiting (John Waller)
- Adoration (Brenton Brown)
- Today I choose (Brian Doerksen)
- Worthy is the Lamb (Hillsong)
- Lord make me an instrument (Sarah McLachlan)

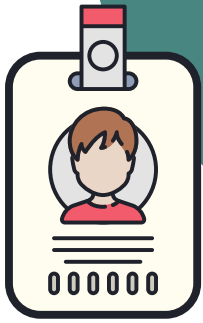


**Game-Changer
Starter Playlist!**

Other video resources on Carlo Acutis' life:



- *Saints in Seven - The Life of Carlo Acutis*
- *CYMFed: Carlo Acutis* animation



SAINT CARLO ACUTIS BID

FILL IN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT SAINT CARLO

Date of birth:

Place of Birth:

Where did Carlo grow up?

Hobbies:

Did his family practice their faith?

Aspects of the Catholic faith Carlo particularly loved:

what kind of student was Carlo?

Example of how Carlo served others:

How he used technology to spread the faith:

URL of website he created:

Date of death:

Cause of death:

Feastday:





BE AN ORIGINAL, NOT BE A PHOTOCOPY!



"ALL PEOPLE ARE BORN AS ORIGINALS, BUT MANY DIE AS PHOTOCOPIES."

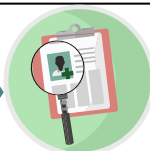
CARLO'S GIFTS AND TALENTS

Carlo Acutis was a gifted young man: kind, generous, cheerful and sociable. He also had an incredible understanding of computers and programming, which amazed even college graduates. Carlo also loved playing computer games, photography, video production, playing soccer, hanging out with his friends: all the normal things a teenager enjoyed. However, Carlo did not waste his time. He was disciplined, spending just one hour a week on gaming. God and prayer came first in his life, then serving others.

Based on what you know about Carlo, what would you consider his greatest gifts or talents to be?

How did he use these to serve others and serve God?

WHAT ABOUT YOU? YES, YOU!



What gifts and talents do you have? Sometimes it's easier to ask others what they see in us, because we don't always recognise our own strengths.

"I AM HAPPY TO DIE BECAUSE I HAVE LIVED MY LIFE WITHOUT WASTING EVEN A MINUTE OF IT DOING THINGS THAT WOULDN'T HAVE PLEASED GOD."

List three ways you can use your gifts and talents to serve others and serve God?

Choose one and pick something practical you can do this week to develop that talent or skill and use it to serve God and/or others:

AN AUDIENCE OF ONE

Everything Saint Carlo did was for God's glory: in essence, he did everything for an audience of One. Watch Fr Patrick Cahill from Holy Family Mission explain this concept briefly, and how we can practically use this as a motivation in our lives. What do you think of this idea?



RESEARCH:

CHECK OUT THE USA AUDIENCE OF ONE ATHLETES IN ACTION MOVEMENT.





BE A GAME CHANGER!

- **LIVE SIMPLY!** Carlo didn't even want to own more than one pair of shoes! Have you collected too much clutter? Give something away this week that you don't need!

- **SOCIAL MEDIA 1:** Carlo might some day be Patron Saint of the Internet. Why not share a video on his life on your social media so others can learn about him?

- **SOCIAL MEDIA 2:** Instagram, Snapchat and Tiktok didn't exist when Carlo was using the Internet, so set yourself a challenge for a week to only post material you think Carlo would have posted online, and only watch what you think Carlo would have watched!



- **POSITIVE ATTITUDE:** Carlo was always seen as positive and funny, and never gave into jealousy. Think about some ways you can bring a positive attitude into your school, home or work place.

- **SERVE OTHERS:** Carlo and his mother brought food and sleeping bags to the homeless and poor. He encouraged his friends to help too. Is there some way you (and your friends) can help those less fortunate than yourself?

- **BE AN ORIGINAL, NOT A PHOTOCOPY!** Carlo knew his strengths and weaknesses and used his talents to help others. Make a list of the talents and skills that you have and think of a way you can use your talents to help others.



- **MOVIE TIME!** Carlo loved watching movies, particularly action movies! Pick a movie with a good message to enjoy with your family or friends. Why not go all Italian on it and make it a movie and pizza night?

- **ART DISPLAY:** design some flyers or posters to promote the story of Carlo Acutis in your school / youth group. Include the website www.carloacutis.com and see if you can create some appropriate hashtags for his biography and example.



- **SPOTIFY!** Create a spotify list of tunes that you think carries the message of Carlo's life and attitude. Pick one song and explain the reasons you chose to include it on the list.



- **REFLECT:** take one of the Carlo quotes and keep it somewhere safe to reflect on in the days ahead. Ask Saint Carlo Acutis for his help in living the best life you can live.

- **FAITH LIFE 1:** Carlo's life was not always easy but he leaned on Christ as a friend, and always made it to Mass each day, as well as spending some time in front of the tabernacle in the Church praying. Why not take 5 minutes out of your day to sit quietly in your local church and ask God to bless your life, your family and your friends? Or just talk to Him like a friend, the same way Carlo did?

- **FAITH LIFE 2:** Carlo also had a great love for Our Lady and said she was the only woman in his life! Before you go to bed each night, try saying one decade of the rosary which takes about 2 minutes (an Our Father, ten Hail Marys and one Glory Be).



- **BE INSPIRED!** Carlo was himself really inspired by young saints. Research the life of one of his favourite saints and see how they might have inspired Carlo: St Francis of Assisi (1181 – 1226) / St Francisco Marto (1908 – 1919) and St Jacinta Marto (1910 – 1920) / St Dominic Savio (1842 – 1857) / St Luigi Gonzaga (1568 – 1591) / St Tarscius (3rd century Rome) / St Bernadette (1844 – 1879)



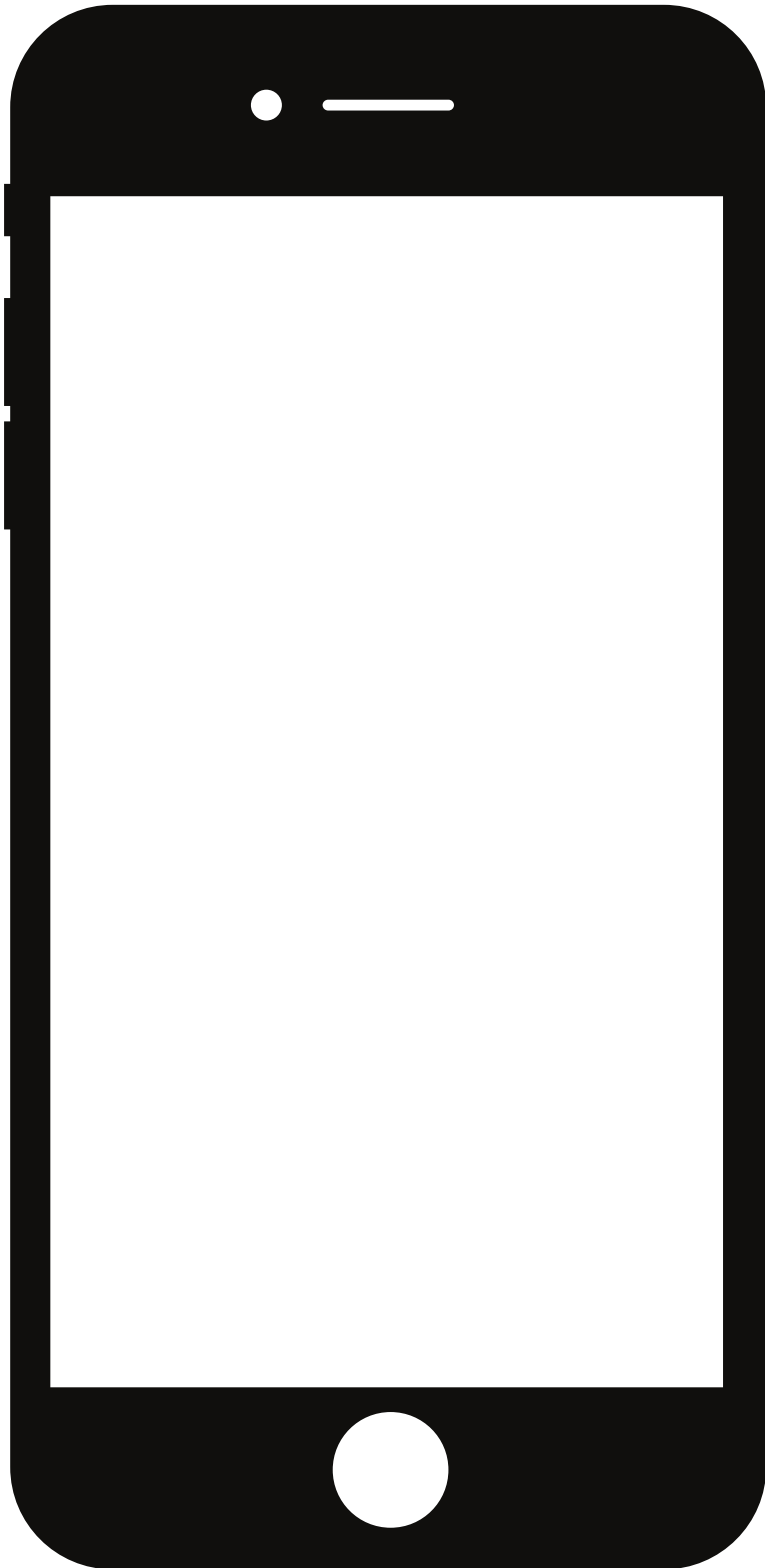
- **JOURNAL EXERCISE:** Carlo lived his life without fear or regret, confident that he didn't waste time on things that weren't pleasing to God. He was also impressed by the words of Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple Computer and of Pixar Animation Studios, who said "It is only by saying "no" that you can concentrate on the things that are truly important." Look up the text of his Commencement Address to Stanford University Students in 2005 and reflect on its meaning for your own life. Journal your thoughts.



- **HIS GREAT PROJECT!** Log onto his website www.miracolieucaaristici.org and read his research on Eucharistic Miracles!



"TO BE ALWAYS CLOSE TO JESUS,
THAT'S MY LIFE PLAN."



WALLPAPER: Sketch what you think his phone wallpaper could be, and then explain why Carlo might choose this image.

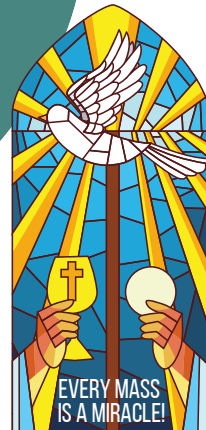
EMAILS / TEXTS: Imagine Carlo just received two emails or texts.

Using your knowledge of Carlo, who do you think could be messaging him and what would the content of each message be?

PLAYLIST: Write down three song titles (with artists' names) that could be on Carlo's playlist (they can be contemporary religious or chart songs). Why do you think Carlo would listen to these tunes?



EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE AT LANCIANO



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "MIRACLE"?

A miracle is a direct intervention by God in the natural order which causes something extraordinary to occur. God's miracles never occur for their own sake, but rather to show us that God is real, to deepen our faith and to help us to see even more how real God's love is. Can you name some miracles that Jesus worked in the Gospels?

TRANSUBSTANTIATION - BIG WORD, EVEN BIGGER REALITY!

What do Catholics believe happens at Mass with the bread and the wine? The "substance" (deepest reality) of bread and wine are changed by the Holy Spirit to the "substance" of Christ's Body and Blood. The "accidents" (appearance or physical attributes) of bread and wine remain. (see CCC 1376) This is known as transubstantiation. What looks like bread and wine is actually, in reality, the Body and Blood of Christ, not a mere symbol, but His full true presence, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.



WHAT HAPPENED IN LANCIANO?



Did you know that 135 Eucharistic Miracles from all over the world, right across the centuries, have been investigated and approved by the Catholic Church? The most famous of these miracles occurred at Lanciano, Italy in the 8th century, when a Basilian monk who was beginning to seriously doubt the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist witnessed an incredible transformation in the bread and the wine while celebrating Mass. Not only did the substance change to become the Body and Blood of Christ, but the accidents, the physical appearance changed also.



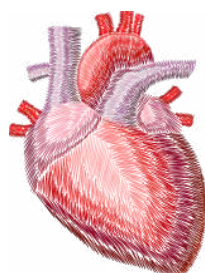
[Click here for enlarged view](#)

[WATCH "GREATEST EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH" FOR A 3.19 MINUTE SYNOPSIS](#)



SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS

Almost thirteen centuries later, the Miraculous Host and Blood is still preserved in Lanciano, despite being left in their natural state and exposed to the action of atmospheric and biological agents for almost twelve centuries. The most recent investigations occurred in 1970-71 and 1981 by experts in the field of anatomy, Pathological Histology, Chemistry and Clinical Microscopy. The reports state:



The Host is real flesh. The Blood is real blood. Both are human in species and the flesh originates from muscular tissue in the heart. The flesh is a "heart" complete in its essential structure e.g. in the flesh we see present in section the myocardium, the endocardium, the vagus nerve and also the left ventricle of the heart. Blood type AB is present in both the flesh and blood. Blood type AB is extremely rare, with approximately 5% of the entire world's population possessing it, and is most predominant in the Middle East. The Blood contains the same proteins in the same normal proportions as fresh blood. One globule of Blood weighed on its own weighs the same as all five globules together (15.85g).

[CHECK OUT MORE STORIES OF EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES COMPILED BY BL. CARLO ACUTIS IN HIS LIFETIME](#)





"THE EUCHARIST IS MY
HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN!"
ST. CARLO ACUTIS



OTHER EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES

"IF THE PEOPLE OF
NAZARETH TAUGHT US
ANYTHING, IT'S THAT
GOD COULD BE RIGHT
IN FRONT OF YOU AND
YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN
RECOGNISE HIM."
- MARK HART -



SANTAREM, PORTUGAL - 12TH CENTURY

A woman who believed her husband was cheating on her, in desperation reached out to a sorceress for help. She asked for a consecrated host as payment. The lady hid the host in her veil, but it started bleeding as she left the church. Rushing home she hid it in a trunk, but during the night was awakened by bright lights emanating from the trunk. She confessed everything to her husband, and then to the local priest, who brought the host in procession to the local church. Encased in a miraculous crystal pyx, the host and still liquified blood remain there to this day.



BOLSENA, ITALY - 1263

Fr Peter of Prague, wracked with doubts about the real presence, witnessed blood from the host trickle over his hands and flow to the altar during Mass. The host and corporal were brought to Orvieto and still are on display there today. Pope Urban IV instituted the feast of Corpus Christi one year later, and commissioned St Thomas Aquinas to compose special liturgical texts, including the Tantum Ergo and Panis Angelicus. Blood type AB.



TUMACO, COLOMBIA - 31 JANUARY 1906

As a devastating tidal wave approached the island of Tumaco, parishioners and their priest, Fr Larrondo, walked in procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the seashore, where Fr Larrondo made the sign of the cross with the Eucharist. The wave disappeared before their eyes and water levels returned to normal.



BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA - 18 AUGUST 1996

A discarded host at the back of the church was placed in a container of water to dissolve. Days later the host had changed in appearance to a bloodied flesh-like substance, which increased in size. Kept a secret for 3 years, Archbishop Bergoglio (now Pope Francis) commissioned an investigation. New York forensic team, led by Fr Frederic Zugibe did not know the origins of the sample but found that it was real human flesh and blood, blood type AB, heart muscle, and that the "heart had been under severe stress, as if the owner had been beaten severely about the chest."



TIXTLA, MEXICO – 21 OCTOBER 2006

A host which appeared to be bleeding in the pyx during the distribution of Holy Communion was later tested and found to be human heart muscle, with blood type AB. Furthermore, the host was bleeding from the inside, as the wound appeared and acted just as a living wound would, with coagulation on the superior part of the wound, and fresh blood in the underlying interior layers. Blood type AB.



SOKÓŁKA, POLAND - 12 OCTOBER 2008

A discarded host which did not dissolve in water changed in appearance to resemble a blood clot. When tested, it was found to be heart muscle, the person the sample was taken from was shown to be near death, and the remaining host was so tightly interconnected with the fibres of human tissue that it was as if the bread was transforming into flesh. Blood type AB.



LEGNICA, POLAND - 25 DECEMBER 2013

A discarded host which did not dissolve in water changed in appearance to resemble a bloodied flesh. Forensic examination found it was real human tissue of the muscle of the heart, appearing under the strains of agony. Blood type AB.



ST CLARE OF ASSISI VS THE SARACEN ARMY



ST ANTHONY AND THE DONKEY AT RIMINI



CARLO'S LIFE-PLAN



CARLO'S GOAL

"To be always close to Jesus, that's my life's plan."

Carlo was a very focused teenager. He knew where he wanted to get to, and how to get there.

"Our aim has to be the infinite and not the finite. The infinite is our homeland. We have always been expected in heaven!"

Although Carlo died at such a young age, he was able to say:

"I am happy to die because I have lived my life without wasting even a minute of it doing things that wouldn't have pleased God."

What an incredible statement for a 15 year old, or someone of any age! Carlo enjoyed life, he enjoyed being with his friends and family, he made time for his hobbies, but he made sure his priorities were correct: God first, others, then himself. Everything he did fell into that order.

That doesn't mean life was easy for him. Carlo was like any other teenager who had to struggle and win daily battles against his own will and passions too:

"What does it matter if you can win a thousand battles if you cannot win against your own corrupt passions? The real battle is with ourselves."

In just 15 short years, Carlo lived his life to the full, cared deeply for those around him, and achieved a level of virtue and sanctity that was incredibly inspirational.

CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO FROM CHRIS STEFANICK ON THE LIFE OF BL. CHIARA LUCE BADANO, THE FIRST MEMBER OF GEN X TO BE BEATIFIED. WHAT SIMILARITIES DO YOU SEE WITH ST. CARLO ACUTIS? WHAT WAS HER LIFE-PLAN?



MY MOTTO FOR LIFE

If you had to choose a motto to live your life by, something really meaningful that you could come back to time and time again if you drifted from your faith or your ideals or principles, what would it be?

Why would you choose that particular motto?

What would it signify for you?





MOVIE POSTER

IF YOU WERE TO DESIGN A POSTER FOR A MOVIE BASED ON THE LIFE OF SAINT CARLO ACUTIS WHAT WOULD YOU INCLUDE ON IT AND WHY? CREATE YOUR POSTER IN THE SPACE BELOW. BE PREPARED TO EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICES.





- Allow yourself some space to sit and reflect.
- You might prefer to play some music in the background, or just sit in silence.
- Reflect on Carlo's quote, *"Happiness is looking towards God. Sadness is looking towards yourself"* and pray with it. Allow ideas, thoughts and images that come to you as you pray to form part of your doodle prayer. Maybe names will come to mind - people to pray for; or things in your life you feel you need to change; maybe situations you need to bring to God and ask for His help in will surface... Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and your thoughts. This is a particular space you are creating for God in your life today. Speak, and listen.



YOU CAN WATCH FR PATRICK CAHILL FROM HOLY FAMILY MISSION EXPLAIN THIS QUOTE FIRST IF IT HELPS!

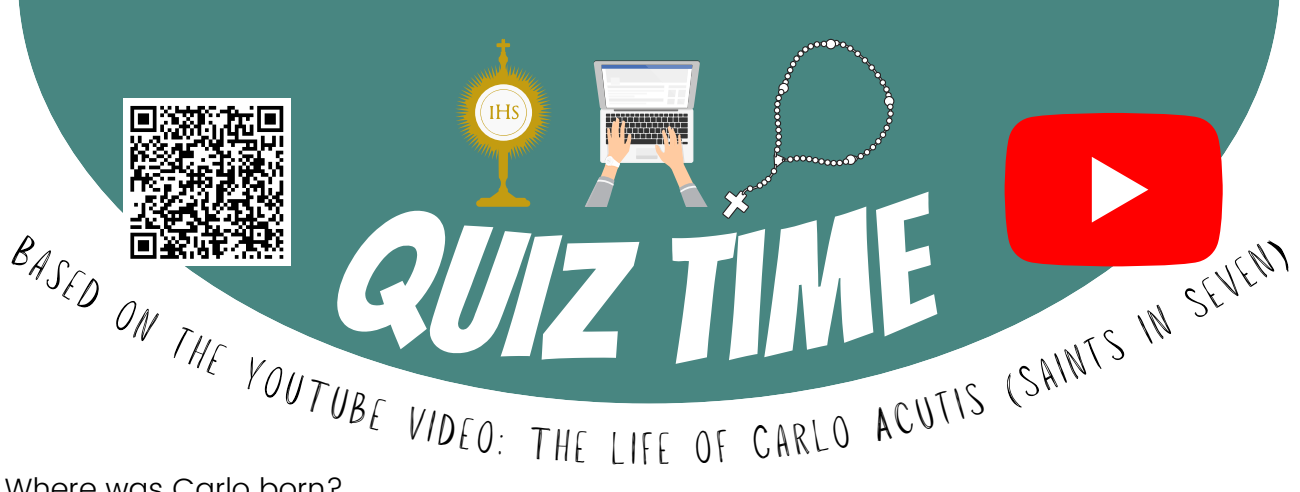


*"Happiness is
looking towards God.
Sadness is
looking towards yourself."*



Why not write a letter to Carlo? Maybe you could write about the challenges you face in your life, or the questions his story raised for you, or any aspect of his story that you found inspiring, or difficult to understand. The important thing is to respond personally and honestly – whatever form that takes for you!

[illegible]



1. Where was Carlo born?
2. Where did his family move to when he was still a baby?
3. At what age did he start to talk?
4. When he was just 4 years old, how did he show his devotion to Jesus and Mary in the local Church?
5. True or False: when Carlo was a small child, his parents were devout practicing Catholics?
6. What age was Carlo when he made his First Holy Communion?
7. From that day on, what 2 aspects of his faith did Carlo never miss?
8. At the age of nine, what did Carlo develop an interest in?
9. What kind of books did his mother buy for him?
10. What other aspects of IT, apart from web design, did Carlo show an interest in? (Name one!)
11. Give two examples of how Carlo was a typical 21st century teenage boy?
12. Apart from Mass, what other sacrament did Carlo attend on a regular basis, because he was aware of his weaknesses?
13. Give one example of how Carlo used to reach out to help others in need?
14. At the age of 11, what sacrament did Carlo receive?
15. Finish the quote: Carlo described the Eucharist as his "highway to _____"?
16. Carlo's great project involved creating a virtual museum and a downloadable exhibition on what topic?
17. What did Carlo say his life plan was? "To be close to _____"
18. Complete the quote: "All people are born as originals, but many die as _____"
19. What illness was Carlo diagnosed with when it became clear he didn't have the flu?
20. Who did Carlo offer his sufferings for?





WORDSEARCH

FIND ALL THE WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH SAINT CARLO ACUTIS IN THE WORDSEARCH

n b o d n u m s e a j w k e p v l r p n
o c i r r n e h u j s f j c h i e a r t
m i r h g l o b g t d s d f a r u l a o
e u a r c m d a o n t d i w p g k u y u
k v m a e x z u l m h z i s p i a p e y
o s r l e u c h a r i s t b i n e o r l
p i e t z y r o t a g r u p n m m p b h
m s p f g r e g a n e e t i e a i a o n
s t u r t s i h c e t a c f s r a s a g
h i s h o s o r n o r d a e s y p l p n
b i l g p s o u l o n d o n b i i o c i
d e i f i t a e b m x s q o t m p k i r
w c k c a z a r d x a o p a h e s d l e
y e d m s t o v y i d s l a f t x x o f
i h b n k i c e m k v y s r e g n b h f
d h a s e o t x a d o r a t i o n i t u
g e n p i s o g a b g n i p e e l s a s
j a s f v t b s n u c q u i z z e s c s
b l c p d y e n o i t a m r i f n o c i
q g j b v r r x s p h o t o g r a p h y



adoration / Assisi / beatified / catalogue / catechist / Catholic / Confirmation /
Eucharist / happiness / homeless / hospital / jeans / leukaemia / London /
Mass / Milan / miracles / October / photography / Pokemon / Pope Francis /
popular / prayer / purgatory / quizzes / rosary / sainthood / sleeping bag /
suffering / Super Mario / teenager / videos / Virgin Mary / website

QUICK FIRE QUIZ!

Choose at least ten of the words / phrases in the list above and work as a team to explain how they relate to the life of Carlo Acutis as quickly as you can. Who can explain the most words?





LIFE TEEN GUIDE TO
PRAYING THE ROSARY!



PRAYING THE ROSARY

Blessed Carlo Acutis loved to pray the rosary each day. Do you know how to pray the Rosary? Maybe you could start praying one decade every day? A decade only takes about two minutes!

HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY

MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

The Apostle's Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAY FOR THE POPE'S INTENTIONS

Recite one Our Father, three Hail Mary's & a Glory Be.

FOR EACH DECADE:

Pray one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's & one Glory Be.

AFTER EACH DECADE: Pray the Fatima Prayer.

DECIDE WHICH MYSTERIES YOU WILL BE MEDITATING ON.

Announce the mystery before each decade
e.g. "The first Joyful Mystery, The Annunciation"

"THE VIRGIN MOTHER IS THE ONLY WOMAN IN MY LIFE ... I NEVER FAIL TO KEEP THE MOST GRACIOUS APPOINTMENT OF THE DAY – RECITATION OF THE HOLY ROSARY."

THE ROSARY PRAYERS

Our Father,

Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

Hail Mary,

full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

Glory be

to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

[Fatima Prayer]

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of your mercy

AFTER FIVE DECADES:

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the Blessed Fruit of your womb Jesus. O, clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us Oh Most Holy Mother of God – that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray, O God whose only begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant we beseech You, that meditating upon these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise through the same Christ our Lord.

May the Divine Assistance remain always with us – and may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

CARLO CALLED THE ROSARY THE
"SHORTEST LADDER TO CLIMB TO
HEAVEN" AFTER THE EUCHARIST.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

The Annunciation
The Visitation
The Birth of Jesus
The Presentation of Jesus in the temple
The Finding of the Child Jesus in the temple

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

The Baptism in the River Jordan
The Wedding Feast at Cana
The Proclamation of the kingdom of God and the call to conversion
The Transfiguration

The Institution of the Holy Eucharist

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

The Agony in the Garden
The Scourging at the Pillar
The Crowning with Thorns
The Carrying of the Cross
The Crucifixion & Death of our Lord

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

The Resurrection
The Ascension
The Descent of the Holy Spirit
The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven
The Coronation of Our Lady

MEDITATING ON THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY HAS BEEN DESCRIBED LIKE TURNING BACK THROUGH THE PAGES OF A PHOTO ALBUM OF JESUS AND MARY'S LIFE WITH OUR LADY, AND BEING ABLE TO PUT YOURSELF INTO THOSE SCENES TOO! WATCH FR PATRICK CAHILL EXPLAIN THIS ANALOGY IN THIS ASCEND YM CLIP ON YOUTUBE

PHOTO
ALBUM

CLICK THE LINKS
ABOVE TO PRAY WITH
THE YOUNG PEOPLE AT
HOLY FAMILY MISSION!



ST ALDHELM
MALMESBURY, ENGLAND



Image used with permission: Photographer - Kevin Mullins



LET THE LIGHT SHINE THROUGH!



One sunny Sunday, a little boy went to visit his local church with his Mom. He asked question after question about the stained glass windows, because he was so fascinated by the images, and the way the coloured glass reflected striking beams of light on the floor. She explained who each saint depicted in each window was. A few days later in religion class, the teacher asked if anybody knew what a saint was. The excited boy, raising his hand, said "Oh, teacher, I do! A saint is someone that the light shines through!"



HOW WAS IT MADE? STAINED GLASS WINDOW | VICTORIA & ALBERT ROYAL MUSEUM

Watch the video to see how stained glass windows are made

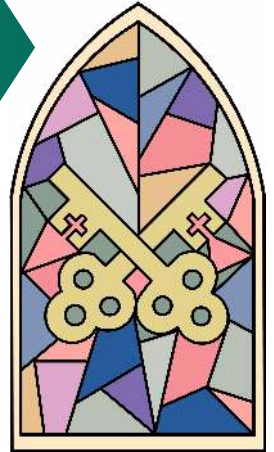


TASK: CREATE A SKETCH OF A STAINED GLASS WINDOW THAT CELEBRATES THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CARLO ACUTIS OR A SAINT OF YOUR CHOICE

RESEARCH: VISIT A LOCAL CHURCH TO LOOK AT THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS THERE



- What kind of images are depicted?
- What other details can you see (e.g. dedications)?
- How old are these windows?
- What colours are used?



BISHOP ROBERT BARRON ON RECENTLY CANONISED SAINT PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI (MUNDELEIN SEMINARY)

- Watch the video to see how symbolism from Pier Giorgio's life was incorporated into a stained glass window



PLAN YOUR OWN STAINED GLASS WINDOW OF YOUR CHOSEN SAINT:

- What details from his / her life will you include in your design?
- How will you represent those images?
- What colours will you use?

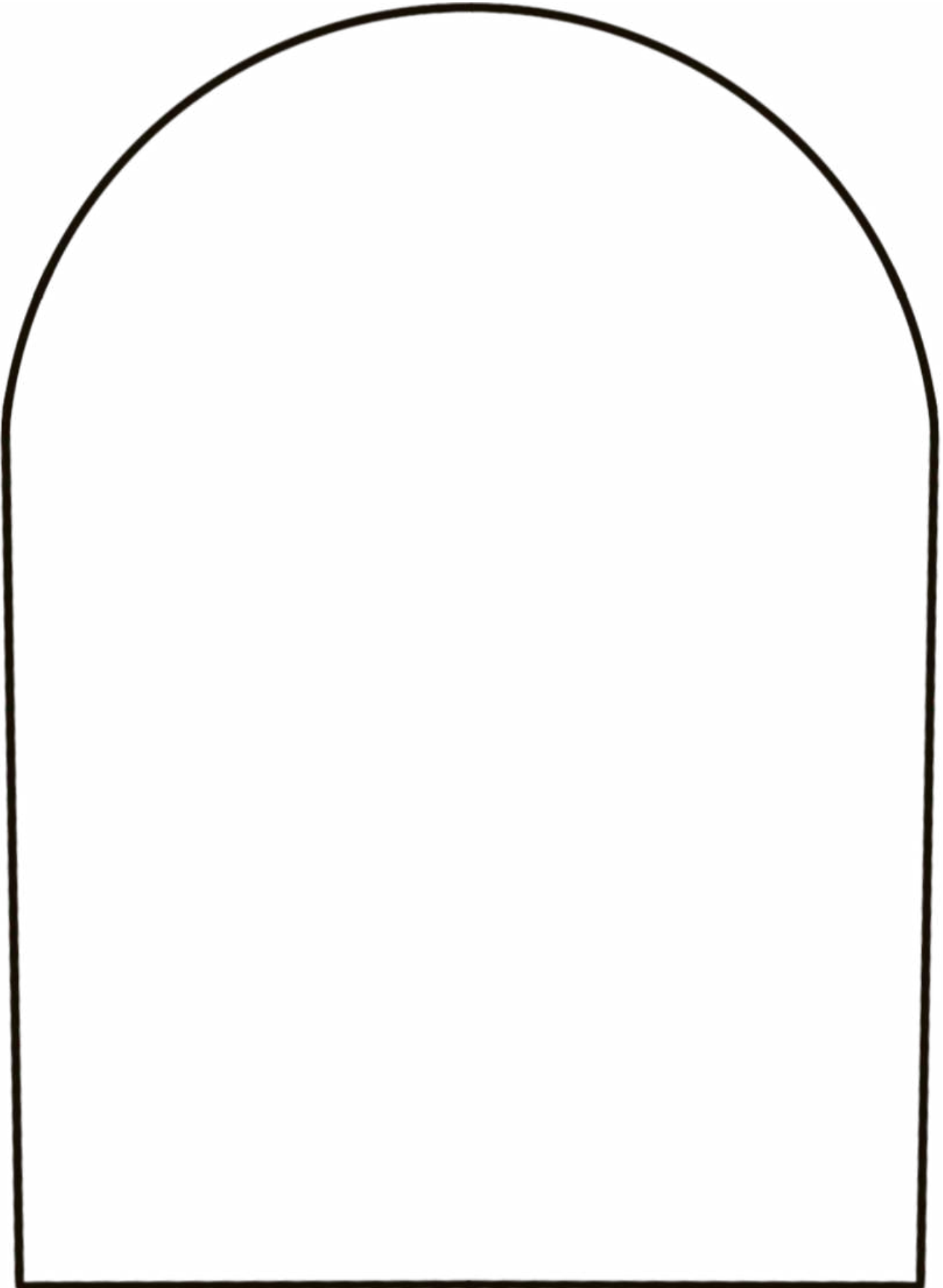
CREATE AND DISPLAY:

- Gather your ideas for symbols, and draft an outline of your chosen saint.
- You might choose to print an image of your saint and the symbols too, and stick these to your a4 page.
- Create your final stained glass window on an a4 sheet.
- Why not create a full display of these images along a corridor / in a classroom / hall / local church, and let the light shine through!





LET THE LIGHT SHINE THROUGH!



CARLO ACUTIS PRAYER SPACES:

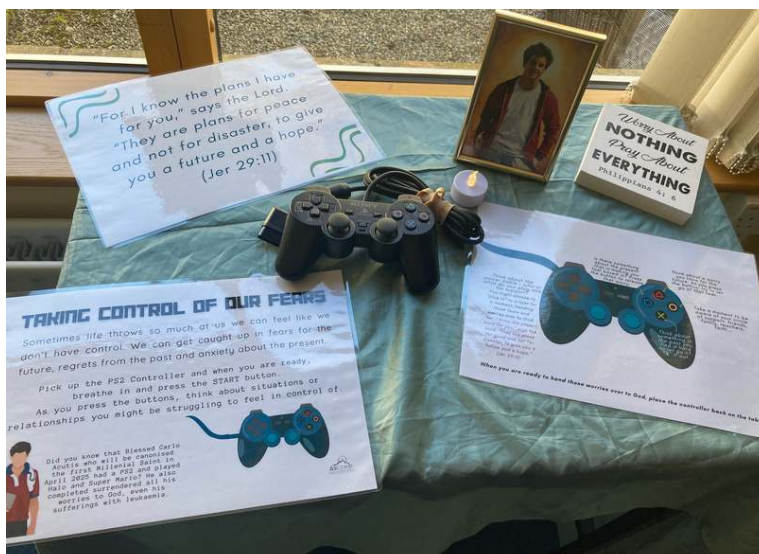


Prayer Spaces can be set up simply with a table and chair. You might like to cover the table with a cloth, or add a battery operated LED tealight as well. The important thing is that people have time to individually engage with the space.



ORIGINALS
NOT
PHOTOCOPIES

Materials needed: Instruction page | Image of Carlo Acutis | Saint Carlo quote (laminated) | cut out paper templates of laptops | Pens to write with



TAKING
CONTROL OF
OUR FEARS

Materials needed: Instruction page | Playstation Controller (PS2 ideally) or laminated image of a controller | Image of Carlo Acutis | Jeremiah 29 quote

ORIGINALS NOT PHOTOCOPIES

Saint Carlo Acutis was just 15 years old when he died from leukaemia, but in his short life, this Italian teenager had a profound impact, not just on his friends and family, but all over the world.

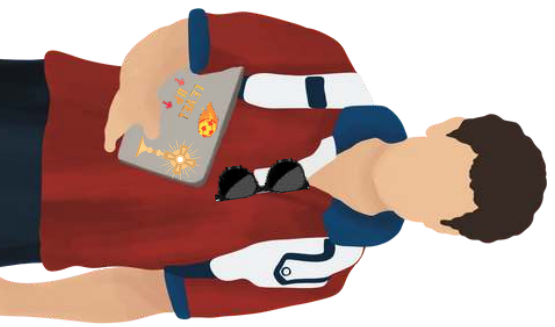
Carlo loved football, music and computer games like Pokémon, Super Mario and Halo. He was gifted at computer programming, designing many websites including one on Eucharistic Miracles.

He was never ashamed to speak up for what he believed in always, and had a really deep faith in Jesus and Our Lady.

He wanted to be a saint, and did it through the ordinary things of life, never wasting a moment but giving his best always, not trying to be anyone other than the best version of himself. Carlo once said, *"Each of us is born as an original, but many die as photocopies."*

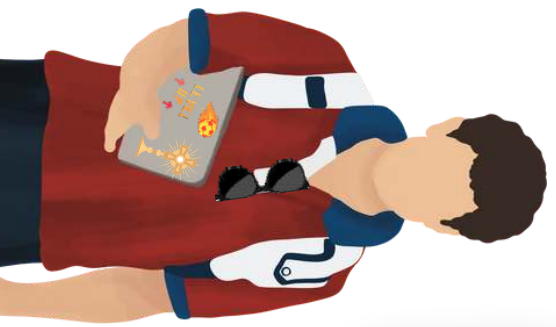
Spend some time thinking about something that is unique and special about you, some way God has created you as an original. You might like to thank God for that gift, write it on one of the paper laptop screens, fold it so it stands and leave it in front of Carlo's picture.

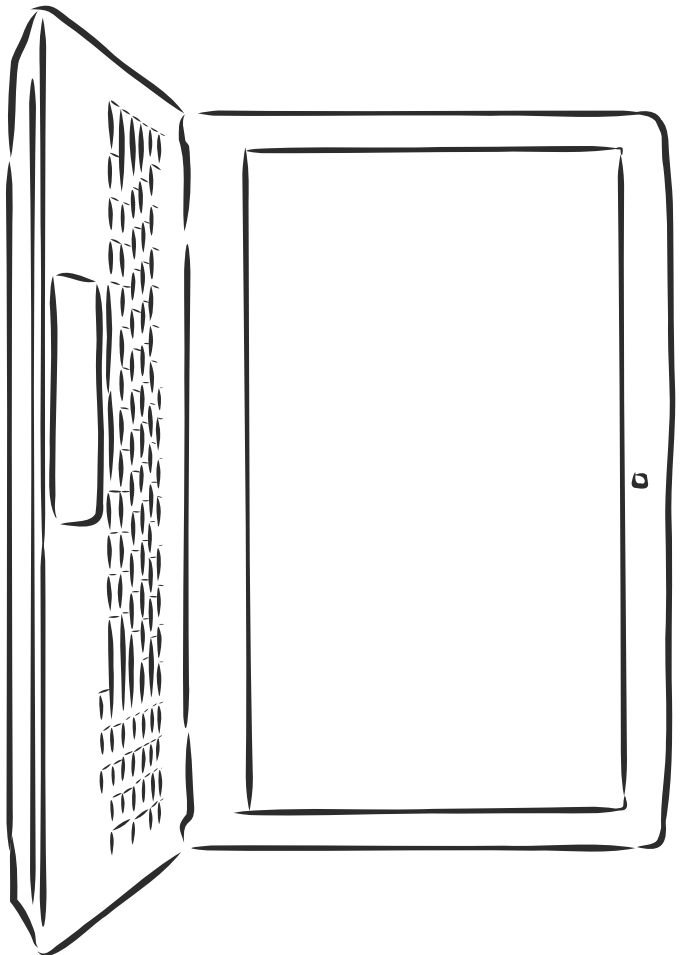
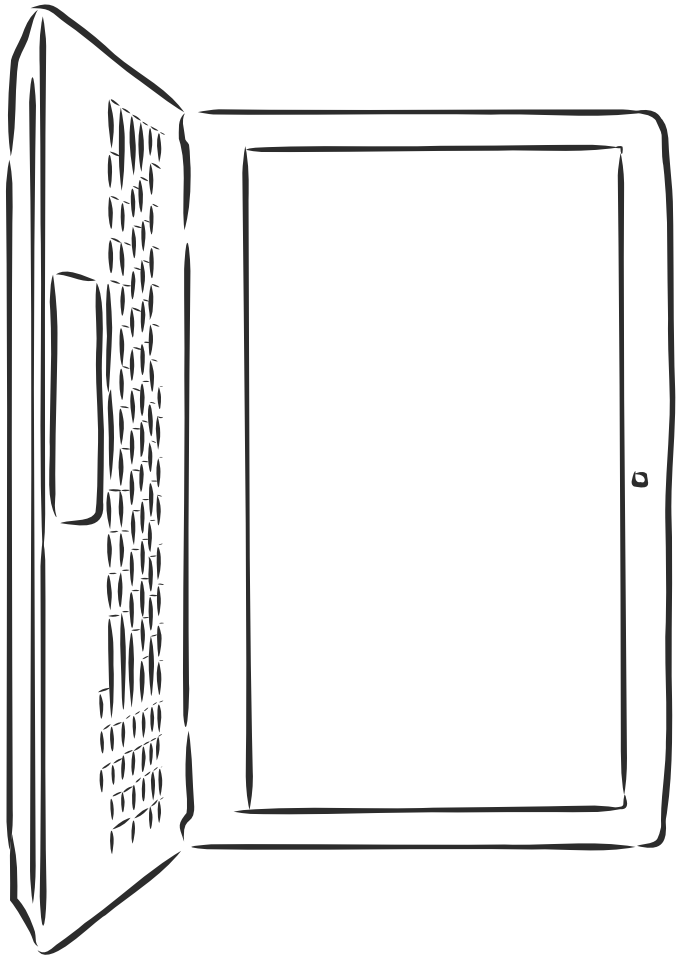
Maybe even ask Saint Carlo to pray for you to become the best version of yourself.



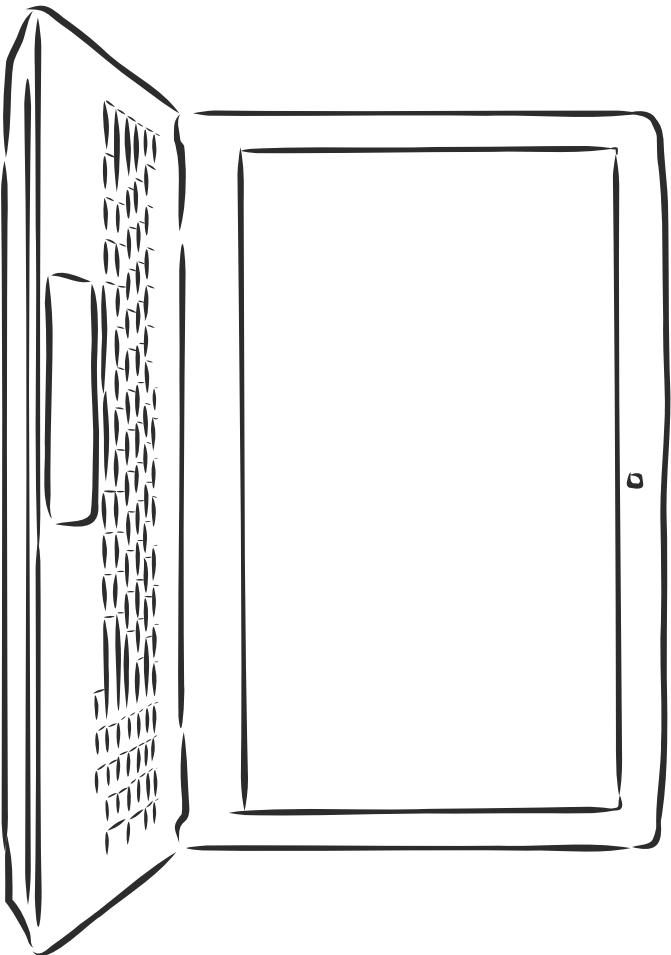
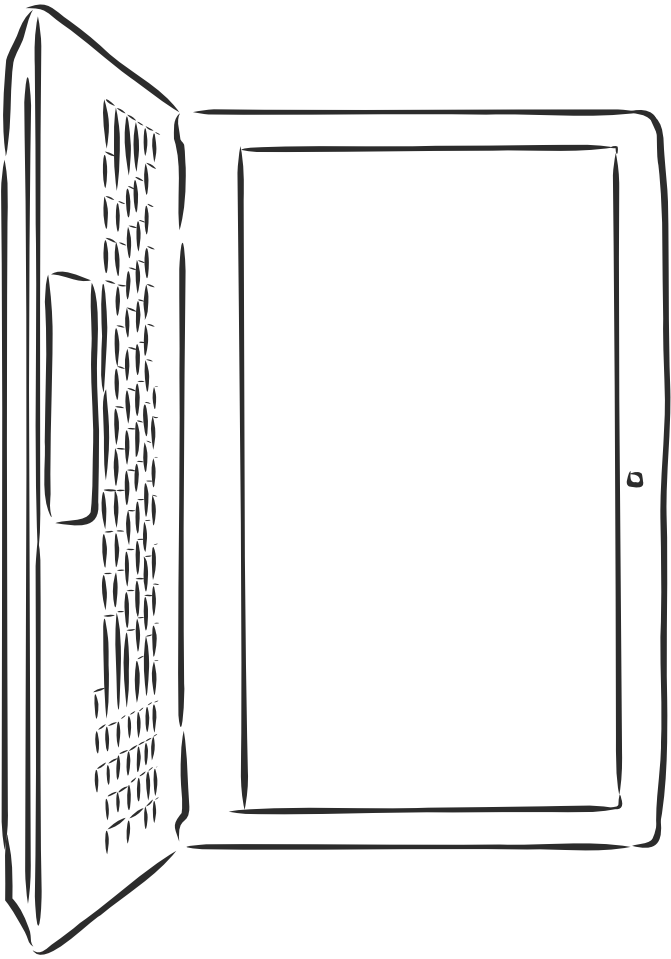
“EACH OF US IS BORN
AS AN ORIGINAL,
BUT MANY DIE AS
PHOTOCOPIES.”

Saint Carlo Acutis





Originals not Photocopies Prayer Space: cut out laptops



TAKING CONTROL OF OUR FEARS

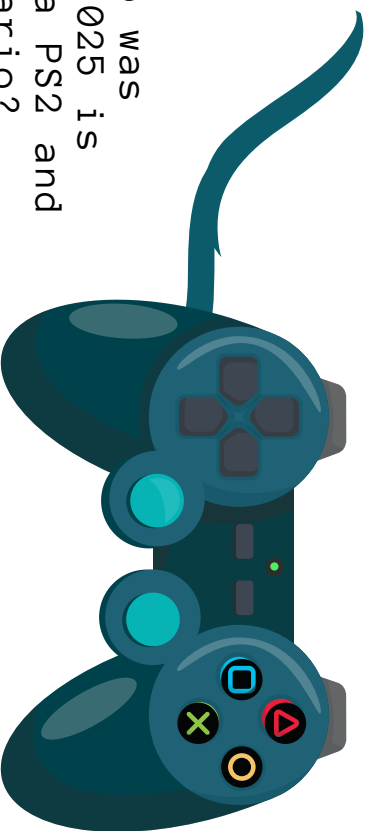
Sometimes life throws so much at us we can feel like we don't have control. We can get caught up in fears for the future, regrets from the past and anxiety about the present.

Pick up the PS2 Controller and when you are ready, breathe in and press the START button.

As you press the buttons, think about situations or relationships you might be struggling to feel in control of.



Did you know that Saint Carlo Acutis who was canonised in September 2025 is first Millennial Saint had a PS2 and played Halo and Super Mario? He also completed surrendered all his worries to God, even his sufferings with leukaemia.



TAKING CONTROL OF OUR FEARS



Think about a worry you have for the future. As you press the button, try to let go of that fear.



Think about something in the past you find it hard to let go of. "X" it out and try to let it go.



Is there something about the present that is making you feel boxed in? Press the button to release that worry.



Take a moment to be aware of your circle of support: friends, family, teachers, faith...

Think about the power cable - who or what do you plug into for support?

You might choose to "plug in" to prayer for a moment, handing those fears and worries over to God.

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (Jer 29:11)

When you are ready to hand those worries over to God, place the controller back on the table.

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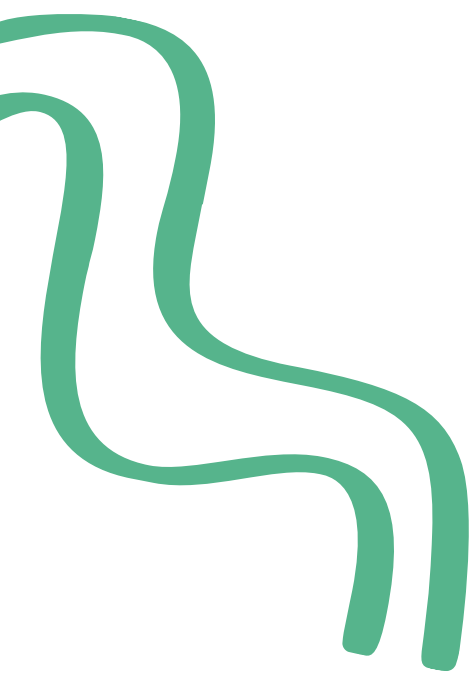
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*"For I know the plans I have
for you," says the Lord.
"They are plans for peace
and not for disaster, to give
you a future and a hope."
(Jer 29:11)*





CARLO'S HOLINESS KIT

Did you know that even though Carlo was just a teenager, he volunteered as a catechist for younger children preparing for their confirmation. To make the faith practical, he made a "Holiness Kit" for them that involved simple steps that he himself practiced. Which of Carlo's Steps could you adopt to grow in your faith? Carlo practiced them all and encouraged the young people he volunteered with to do the same.



LOVE GOD WITH ALL
YOUR HEART



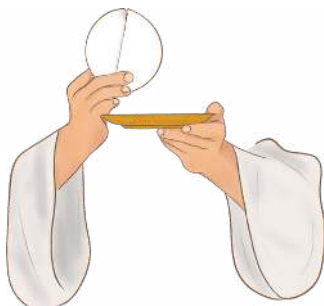
PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY
CAN YOU EVEN PRAY ONE DECADE? (1 OUR
FATHER, 10 HAIL MARYS, 1 GLORY BE)



GO TO CONFESSION
ONCE A WEEK
CAN YOU EVEN GO ONCE A MONTH?



MAKE A VISIT TO JESUS IN
THE TABERNACLE EACH DAY
CAN YOU POP INTO THE CHURCH
FOR A QUIET PRAYER EACH DAY?



EACH DAY TO TRY TO GO TO
MASS AND RECEIVE COMMUNION
CAN YOU EVEN GO EVERY SUNDAY /
SATURDAY NIGHT?



PROMISE GOD & MARY
TO HELP OTHERS AS
OFTEN AS YOU CAN



READ A PASSAGE OF
SACRED SCRIPTURE



RELY ON YOUR
GUARDIAN ANGEL AS
YOUR BEST FRIEND

CAN YOU PRAY THE
ANGEL OF GOD PRAYER
EVERY DAY?



HELPFUL RESOURCES



ACCOMPANYING CANVA PRESENTATION AVAILABLE -
JUST CLICK THE IMAGE OR SCAN THE CODE



THE LIFE OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS
(ASCEND YOUTH MINISTRY)



THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF CARLO ACUTIS
(FIONTAR FLOINN)



THE LIFE OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS
(SAINTS IN SEVEN)



THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF BLESSED
CARLO ACUTIS: EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
WITH CARLO ACUTIS' MOM (EWTN)



THE LIFE OF CARLO ACUTIS, THE "THE
APOSTLE OF THE EUCHARIST" & FIRST
MILLENNIAL BLESSED (EWTN)



CARLO ACUTIS ANIMATION (CYMFED)



The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven.

- ST CARLO ACUTIS -

- Feast day October 12th -



**Our goal must
be infinite,
not the finite.
The infinite is
our homeland.
Heaven has
been waiting
for us forever.**

- ST CARLO ACUTIS -

- Feast day October 12th -



**To always
be close
to Jesus,
that's
my life plan.**

- ST CARLO ACUTIS -

- Feast day October 12th -



**All people
are born as
individuals,
but many
die as
photocopies.**

- ST CARLO ACUTIS -

- Feast day October 12th -



**If we get in
front of the
sun, we get
sun tans. If
we get in
front of the
Eucharist,
we become
saints.**

- ST CARLO ACUTIS -

- Feast day October 12th -



**Happiness is
looking
towards God.
Sadness is
looking
towards
yourself.**

- ST CARLO ACUTIS -

- Feast day October 12th -



**Life is a gift,
because
as long as
we are
on earth,
we can
increase our
level of love**

- ST CARLO ACUTIS -

- Feast day October 12th -



**Continuously
ask your
guardian
angel for help.
Your guardian
angel has to
become your
best friend.**

- ST CARLO ACUTIS -

- Feast day October 12th -



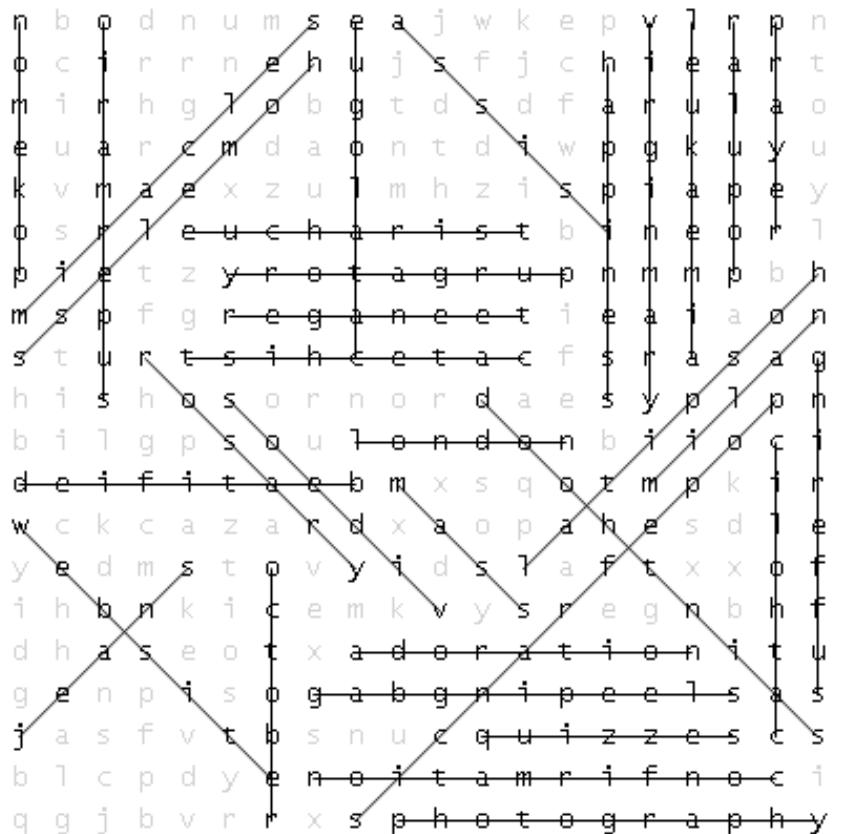
Answer Page

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. London
2. Milan (Italy)
3. Three months
4. He would kiss the cross and bring flowers to lay at the feet of Our Lady's statue
5. False (although through Carlo's faith, his mother came back to the Church and even became a Catechist)
6. Seven
7. Daily Mass and daily Rosary
8. Computer Programming
9. College Text Books on programming
10. Video making / animation
11. He liked being with his friends / sending each other videos / playing PlayStation / talked too much / sometimes indulged too much in food
12. Reconciliation / Confession
13. He consoled his friends in their struggles / he brought food and blankets to the homeless in Milan
14. Confirmation
15. Heaven
16. Eucharistic Miracles
17. To be close to Jesus
18. Photocopies
19. Leukaemia
20. The Church and the Holy Father (Pope)



WORD SEARCH SOLUTION







Notes

Images: canva.com / carloacutis.org

Resource Pack produced by Ascend: Waterford & Lismore Youth Ministry

Website: www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry
Email: youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie
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