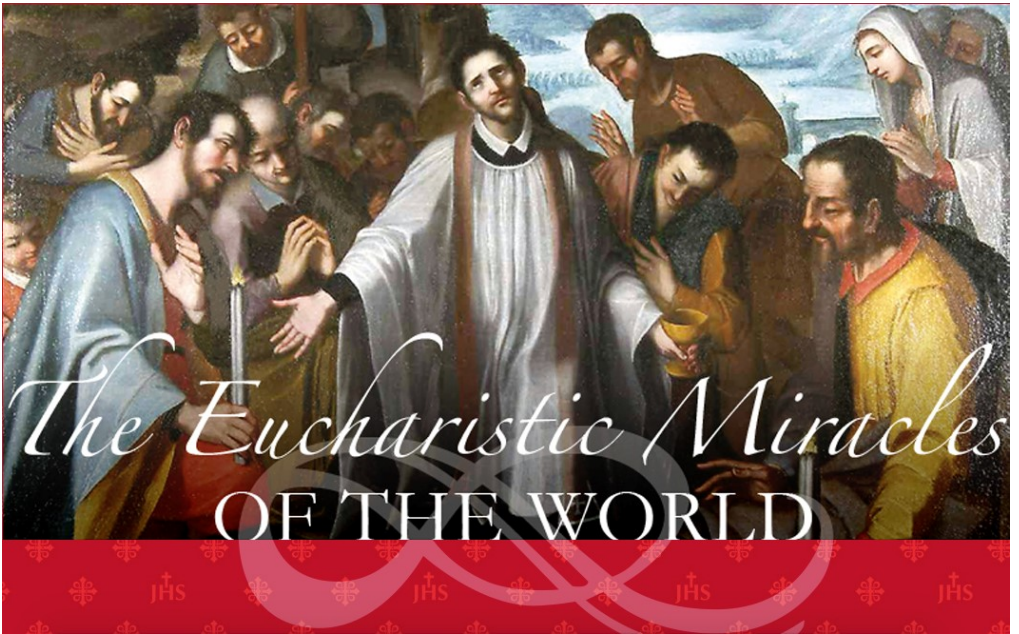


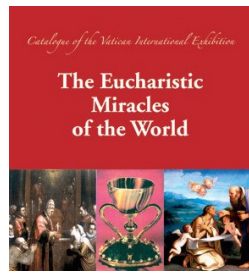
International Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition



"The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of Heaven" .

Blessed Carlo Acutis, organiser of the exhibition

What is the Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition?



Carlo Acutis, who died aged 15 in 2006, designed and created the International Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition.

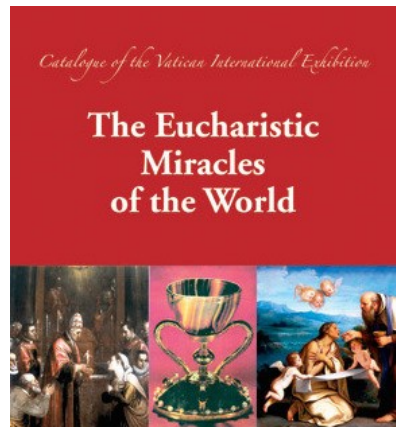
According to the website for his canonization process, “Carlo was gifted at anything related to computers so that his friends, and the adults with computer engineering degrees, considered him a genius. Everyone was amazed by his ability to understand the computer secrets that are normally accessible only to those who have completed university.”

One of his most significant computer ventures was cataloguing all the Eucharistic miracles of the world. He started the project when he was 11 years old and wrote at the time, “The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of Heaven.” He then asked his parents to start taking him to all the places of the Eucharistic miracles, and two and half years later the project was completed.

Acutis researched over “136 Eucharistic miracles that occurred over the centuries in different countries around the world, and have been acknowledged by the Church” and collected them into a virtual museum. Besides creating a website to house this virtual museum, he helped create panel presentations that have travelled around the world.



“Cataloguing all the miraculous events, throughout history, where the consecrated Host turned into flesh, and the wine into the blood, or when the Sacred Species was saved from desecration, theft, fire is a difficult task”. The exhibition on Eucharistic miracles, thanks to a large collection of photographs and abundant historical descriptions, is unique. Information on these miracles “have been collected by this museum that runs through the panels which "virtually" lead us into the places where the events occurred”.



In the United States alone, it has been hosted in thousands of parishes and more than 100 universities.” The panels have travelled to all five continents and have inspired many by their amazing photographs and beautiful stories.

The exhibition on Eucharistic Miracles that can be downloaded, printed and exhibited in any parish or Diocese (www.miracolieucaristici.org). The Christ-church Diocese has printed 35 of the panels and these are available to borrow.



What is a Eucharistic Miracle?

“Eucharistic miracles are God's extraordinary interventions, which are meant to confirm the faith in the presence of the body and blood of the Lord in the Eucharist. We know the Catholic teaching on the real presence. With the words consecration: "This is my body," "This is my blood," the substance of bread becomes the body of Christ and the substance of wine His blood. This marvellous change is called transubstantiation, that is to say, the passage of substance. There remain only the appearance or species of the bread and wine, which, using a philosophical term, are called accidents. In other words, only the dimensions, colour, taste, smell and even the nutritive capacity remain. But the substance, or the true reality, does not remain, for it has become the body and blood of the Lord”.



of

“Throughout history God has chosen on particular occasions to “lift the veil” that hides his presence in the Eucharist. It is a miraculous event, one that ratifies the priest’s words at Mass when the Eucharist is changed into the body and blood of Jesus Christ. “Jesus has proven beyond any doubt that He is truly present in the Holy Eucharist. Why did He have to prove this to us? It is because at certain times in history, there were heresies that denied the Real Presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. On other occasions, some priests doubted the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. And yet, on other occasions, the Holy Eucharist was abused by believers and non-believers alike”.

Over the centuries there have been over 140 Eucharistic Miracles approved by the Catholic Church. These have ranged from bleeding hosts, the host becoming flesh, and consecrated hosts not deteriorating over the centuries. The approval process is very rigorous and can take a long time. Other events that seemed to be miracles at the time, were ultimately determined to be natural phenomena. All the approved Eucharistic Miracles can be viewed in the online exhibition at www.miracolieucaristici.org



Who was Carlos Acutis?

“Carlos Acutis was born in London on May 3, 1991, to Italian parents who soon returned to Milan., and is remembered for his great love for God at a young age.



“As a little boy, especially after his First Communion, he never missed his daily appointment with the Holy Mass and the Rosary, followed by a moment of Eucharistic adoration,” recalls his mother, Antonia Acutis. He also made a weekly confession. While he may have led a devout prayer life Carlo was very much interested in being a teenager in the 21st century. He tried hard in school, with his friends, and was well loved. He loved computers, computer programming, film editing, website creation, editing and layout of comics. He left everyone in awe of his skills and was considered by many to be a genius. However he put his gifts at the service of others and used it to help his friends. At the same time he was a great friend of Jesus Christ. “At age eleven he became a catechist and learnt about the famous Eucharistic miracle of Lanciano in 750 AD. Determined to make this and other similar Eucharistic miracles more widely known, Carlo was convinced that if people properly understood that Christ is present in the tabernacle, they would be transformed and churches would be full. Using his love of computers (and his skill), he researched and collated all the authenticated Eucharistic miracles by himself and put them on-line, doing the programming for the website. This website was the genesis of The Eucharistic Miracles of the World, an international exhibition which highlights such occurrences. He website is available at www.miracolieucaistici.org

While his interests were very broad, he also found to time volunteer for work with children and the elderly for, as he said, “Our aim has to be the infinite and not the finite. The Infinite is our homeland. We have always been expected in Heaven.”



“With this intense spiritual life, Carlo has fully and generously lived his fifteen years of life, leaving a profound impact on those who knew him. “His immense generosity made him interested in everyone: the foreigners, the handicapped, children, beggars. To be close to Carlo was to be close to a fountain of fresh water,” his mother said ... [he] understood the true value of life as a gift from God, as an effort, an answer to give to the Lord Jesus day by day in simplicity.” She further pointed out, “I should stress that he was a normal boy who was joyful, serene, sincere, and helpful and loved having company, he liked having friends.”

Death

Carlos Acutis died of leukemia in Monza, near Milan, Oct. 12, 2006 aged 15 years old. His Mother recalls clearly that “shortly before his death, Carlo offered his sufferings for the Pope and the Church. The heroism with which he faced his illness and death has convinced many including family members and friends that he was truly somebody special. When the doctor that was treating him asked him if he was suffering a lot, Carlo answered: ‘There are people who suffer much more than me!’

Acutis once said, “To always be close to Jesus, that’s my life plan.” In his brief life on earth he achieved that goal and remained close to Jesus in whatever he did, whether it was praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament for hours, creating websites, or going to school like every other teenager.

He remains an inspiration, especially to teenagers who aren't sure whether they could be both holy and "normal" and individually unique. "All people are born as originals," he said, "but many die as photocopies." To die as an "original," Carlo maintained, was to be guided by Christ, and to look at Him constantly.



"After his death many felt compelled to write down their own remembrance of him, and others say they are going to ask for his prayers, "Those who have read about his life are moved to profound admiration."

Canonization process

Since Carlo's death, the progress of his Cause has been very rapid. From all over the world people have been making pilgrimages to his home parish in Milan, after viewing his Exhibition either on-line or in their parish. The Exhibition "has really deepened and strengthened ... faith".

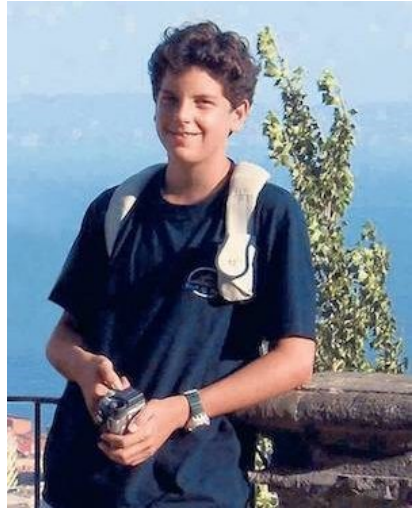
His heroic virtues were recognized by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in July 2018, which advanced his cause for canonization and added the title "Venerable" to his name. He was beatified on October 10th, 2020

The mother of Blessed Carlo Acutis further reflects

The testimony of life is drawing many people to the faith. It started with his own mother, Antonia Salzano, who today considers him a "little savior" who taught her to love the Eucharist.

She's now dedicated to telling his story of her young computer genius who went to Mass every day and who had a full, normal life, lived in an extraordinary way.

“Carlo was a very devout soul, even when he was very young. He loved to go to church, to pray, and to learn more about his faith. I was far from the church; I grew up in a secular family, as millions of people do, I suppose. So, having this son who insistently asked me questions about the faith forced me to reflect. That was the reason why I drew closer to the Church” and to the sacraments, she explains.



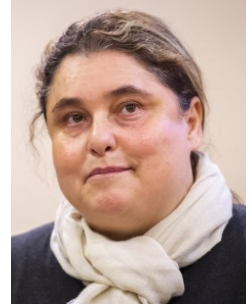
Carlo lived an exceptional life up to the very end, when he said that he offered his physical pain to God for the pope and for the Church. His mother says, “For me, Carlo was a little savior who led me to take a special path.”

“It’s a path I continue to walk,” she reflects. “I try to spread his legacy, especially this exposition about Eucharistic miracles, which has traveled throughout all the continents, and which has helped many people.”

“There are testimonies of people who’ve drawn closer to God and who’ve begun a life of faith,” she says. “For me, this is the greatest sign. Because Carlo cared a lot about the Eucharist, and he used to say, ‘We are born as originals, but many live as photocopies.’”

Carlo’s mother agrees with his words. She says that “Jesus gives us the sacraments so that we may not die as photocopies, and he gives himself through the Eucharist,” which is “God present in person: his body, blood, soul, and divinity.”

During Carlo's sickness, his courage in the face of his premature death inspired his mother. "Mom, don't be afraid," he said, "because with the Incarnation of Jesus, death became life, and there's no need to escape: in eternal life, something extraordinary awaits us."



Carlo's mother is convinced that "Jesus is Love, God is love." Therefore, "when we receive the Eucharist, we receive love."

"The purpose of every Christian is to become holy," she says, and the way to achieve it is through "receiving God, loving God above all things, loving our neighbour as ourselves, receiving love through the Eucharist ... Jesus teaches us also to give ourselves to others, and to grow in our love for God," she adds.

Carlo bore witness to this until the end. From when he received his First Communion at the age of seven, until he died, he never missed daily Mass. "He used to say, 'The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven.' Therefore, he wanted everyone to understand the immense gift that Jesus gives us in the sacraments."

Carlo's mother is the best ambassador of his exposition dedicated to Eucharistic miracles. "Jesus Promised, 'I will be with you until the end of time.' He promised it, and he kept his promise. Even today, he shows us these extraordinary signs that are Eucharistic Miracles, like those that took place in 2006, 2008, and 2013."

"Miracles," she adds, "like the one that happened in Lanciano, Italy, where the host visibly became flesh and was discovered to be myocardial tissue. This is something extraordinary! It's a great sign that will surely help many people who sincerely desire to draw near the Lord, and who, seeing the signs, I think will find the meaning of their faith."

Carlo's mother has no doubt: "Carlo was a seed, or rather, he planted a seed with this exposition on Eucharistic miracles," to help the world believe.

Quotes from Blessed Carlos Acutis

“To always be close to Jesus, that’s my life plan”.

“I’m happy to die because I’ve lived my life without wasting even a minute of it doing things that wouldn’t have pleased God.”

“Our aim has to be the infinite and not the finite. The Infinite is our homeland. We have always been expected in Heaven,”

“The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of Heaven.”

"All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies.



How to run the exhibition in your parish

On the website <http://www.miracolieucaistici.org> there are 140 panels detailing every church approved Eucharistic Miracle. Once permission has been given, you simply download as many panels as you want to show and get them printed. They are big files, A1 size, and the panels can be displayed in a variety of ways. The Diocese had 35 of these panels which can be borrowed.

More Information / Further Resources

For more information about the exhibition check out the website at www.miracolieucaistici.org

If you are interested in running this devotion for your parish, or sponsoring the purchase of one or more panels, please contact Matt O’Connell in the first instance on (03) 366-9869, 027 536 9407 or moconnell@chch.catholic.org.nz

The information in this booklet has been obtained from the following resources:

<https://zenit.org/articles/eucharistic-miracles-shown-to-the-world-thanks-to-carlo/>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2017/10/16/the-teen-who-dedicated-his-life-to-eucharistic-miracles/#.WeWnhfgWWrc.email>

“The Eucharist: My Road to Heaven: A Biography of Carlo Acutis” by Nicola Gori.

<https://aleteia.org/2016/12/03/computer-geek-takes-one-more-step-toward-sainthood/>

<https://aleteia.org/2018/06/01/how-a-eucharistic-miracle-is-approved-by-the-church/>

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2017/10/16/the-teen-who-dedicated-his-life-to-eucharistic-miracles/>