

Who is Carlo Acutis

Despite what one might think of a young candidate for the honors of the altars, Carlo was an absolutely normal boy, like most of his peers, but with an absolutely special harmony, thanks to his great friendship with Jesus.

In addition to the main duties of his status as that of student and son, he manages to find time to teach catechism to children preparing for their First Communion and Confirmation; to volunteer at the soup kitchen of the Capuchins and the nuns of Mother Teresa; to help the poor who live in his neighborhood; to help children in difficulty with their homework; to carry out apostolic works with the internet; to play the saxophone; to play football; to design programs with the computer; to have fun with video games; watching detective films and making home movies with his dogs and cats.

“To always be united with Jesus, this is my life plan,” he wrote when he was only seven years old. And since then, he has always been faithful to this program until his departure for Heaven which took place between 11 and 12 October 2006 at the San Gerardo Hospital in Monza.

Since he was a child, Carlo has always shown a great attraction towards "Heaven". By a special circumstance, given his uncommon maturity in the matters of Faith and his great love for the Sacrament of the Eucharist, Carlo was admitted to his First Communion at just seven years old and since then he has never missed his daily appointment with the Holy Mass and some Eucharistic adoration either before or after Mass and the daily Rosary. Carlo writes that when "you stand in front of the sun you tan... but when you stand in front of Jesus the Eucharist you become saints". For Carlo **"the Eucharist is his highway to Heaven"**, and also the most powerful means of becoming saints quickly.

His phrase is famous: **“Everyone is born original but many die like photocopies”**. In order not to die like a photocopy, Carlo draws from the source of the Sacraments, which for Carlo are the most powerful means to grow in virtue, effective signs of God's infinite mercy for us. Thanks to the Eucharist, Charles heroically strengthens the virtue of fortitude, which will give him that courage common to all saints, to always go against the grain and oppose the false idols that the world constantly offers us.

The Eucharist also fuels in him a very strong desire to constantly tune in to the voice of the Lord, and to always live in his presence. By doing so, Carlo manages to bring that lifestyle learned at the school of the Eucharist: being at school, in a pizzeria with friends or in the square for a football match, or using the computer, becomes a lived Gospel. Carlo managed in an extraordinary way, despite living an ordinary existence like that of many, to dedicate his life, moment after moment, to the highest goal to which all men are called: eternal bliss with God.

Carlo, "the lover of God", experienced this strong presence of the divine in his earthly life and tried in every way to generously transmit it to others and still continues to intercede so that everyone can put God first in one's life and say like Carlo: **"Not me but God"; “Not self-love but the glory of God”;** **“Sadness is looking towards oneself, happiness is looking towards God”**.