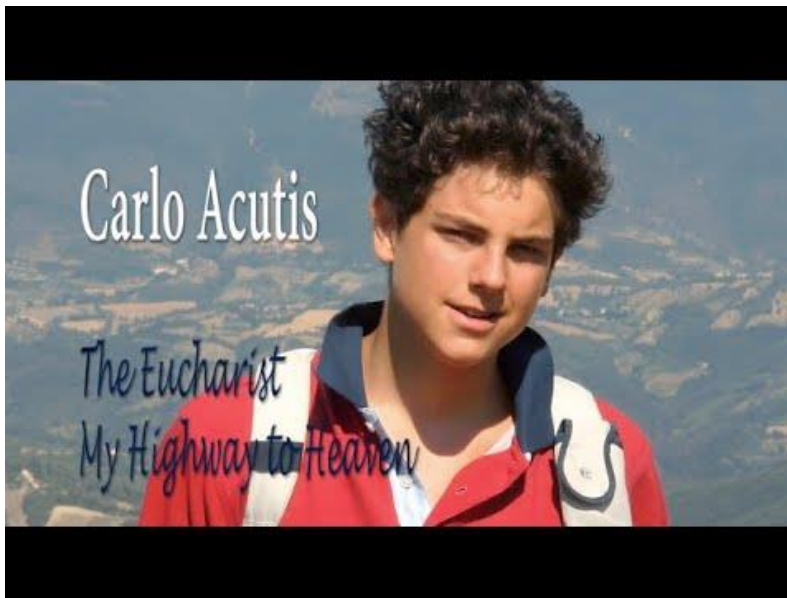


## Carlos Acutis -The New Patron Saint of Millennials, Generation Z?

1. YouTube clip on Carlos' life (click on picture below)
2. YouTube clip on his beatification (click on 2<sup>nd</sup> picture below)
3. Background and questions for classroom discussion.

### YouTube clip on Carlos Acutis ( 7mins 3 secs)



### Beatification Highlights ( 2mins)



## Background and Discussion Questions:



Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991–2006) image courtesy [Wikimedia Commons](#).

Saints stare at computer screens, too!

Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991–2006) loved Super Mario, PlayStation, and Pokémon but he loved Jesus more.

“He had his gaze turned to Jesus,” Cardinal Agostino Vallini said at Carlo’s beatification on October 10. “Love for the Eucharist was the foundation that kept alive his relationship with God. He often said, ‘The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven.’ He was an ordinary boy, simple, spontaneous, likable.”

The first Millennial to be beatified by the Catholic Church died of leukaemia at age 15. He was just a simple, sweet boy from an ordinary family. But his sincere love for others changed hearts, inspiring prayers, and miracles:

Like many Millennials, he saw peers battered by divorce, inviting young friends whose parents were divorcing to spend time at his home. He also fought

for disabled children mocked by bullies.

A “computer geek,” his passion for the Eucharist inspired him to build [a website cataloguing Eucharistic Miracles](#). It’s since been translated into many languages



His mother, like many Catholics, missed regular Mass for years. But once her son received his first communion at age 7, he never wanted to miss daily Mass again, convinced the Eucharist was everything. That inspired others. His mom calls him “my little saviour.”

He made holy hours, praying before the Blessed Sacrament for an hour at a time, either before or after Mass.

He went to confession weekly and regularly prayed the Rosary.

Pew Research in 2019 found just a third of U.S. Catholics fully believe the core teaching that the Eucharist is the Real Presence of Jesus Christ. Carlo was certain the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ. He vowed to become more like Jesus by spending more time with Him, participating in the sacraments as frequently as possible.

*“Carlo was a seed, or rather, he planted a seed with this exposition on Eucharistic miracles,” his mother believes.*

By age 11, he became an assistant catechist in his parish (he soon was able to teach the Catechism himself).

When told he had leukaemia and could die at age 15, he smiled and said, “the Lord



gave me a beautiful alarm clock.” He fully accepted his fate, saying. “I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church.”

He died on October 12, 2006. Exactly nine days later, a Eucharistic Miracle occurred: a sister distributing communion in Mass found her eyes were filled with tears as the communion host began to ooze a red substance.

Two scientific studies conducted over two years found the host had the properties of an interior wound of living human heart tissue.

The different “certified,” fully investigated and approved miracle that made him “Blessed Carlo” in 2020 occurred in 2013, seven years after his death. It concerned a boy named Mattheus who lived in Brazil and overcame a congenital disability after Mattheus’ parish priest, Father Nicola Gori, had been praying for Carlo’s beatification. The priest held a healing service where they prayed for Carlo’s intercession on the anniversary of his death. Gori explained the miracle to Italian media:



*“On October 12, 2013, seven years after Carlo’s death, a child, affected by a congenital malformation (annular pancreas), when it was his turn to touch the picture of the future blessed, expressed a singular wish, like a prayer: ‘I wish I could stop vomiting so much.’ Healing began immediately, to the point that the physiology of the organ in question changed.”*

Fourteen years after Blessed Carlo’s death, his body is on public display in Italy.

Around the world, Millennials (born from 1981–96) and Generation Z (born from 1996–2015) see a holy child/teenager they can easily identify with, imitate, and learn from.

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### [What is a saint?](#)

Often when one hears the word *saint*, the first thing that comes to mind is a person who is especially holy or religious. However, in the New Testament St Paul refers to anyone who is trying to follow Jesus or trying to have a close relationship with Jesus as a Saint. You don’t have to be perfect!

Matthew Kelly, Catholic author, argues that the greatest lie in Christianity's history is that you or someone else can’t become a saint, that it’s a designation reserved for a select few, that sainthood is for the “holier than thou.”

#### [Why do you think that it is wrong to believe that it is not possible for ordinary people to become saints?](#)

*“All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies,”* Blessed Carlo said.

#### [What does that mean to die as a photocopy and not be an original?](#)

Carlo fully believed Church teachings that the most ordinary people are extraordinary, each created by God for a unique purpose and it is by entering into a relationship with Jesus that we become the best versions of ourselves and the people we are meant to be.

“To always be close to Jesus, that’s my plan,” Blessed Carlo said. Catholics believe they are consuming the Body and Blood of Christ during Communion, so he did so every day he could.

What are the different ways that we can be close to God?

Eucharistic Adoration, gazing upon Jesus and praying before the Blessed Sacrament, was also essential for him: “If we get in front of the sun, we get suntans, but when we



get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist we become saints.”

What is Carlos trying to tell us when he uses the image of the sun/ suntans?

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

What does this mean to have a foretaste of heaven?

Blessed Carlo said; *“Sadness is looking at ourselves, happiness is looking towards God... The Eucharist is the highway to Heaven.”*

What do you think he meant by saying the Eucharist is the way to Heaven?

To become a saint, he stressed, only requires one thing: *“The only thing we have to ask God for, in prayer, is the desire to be holy.”*

In your opinion what does it mean to be holy?

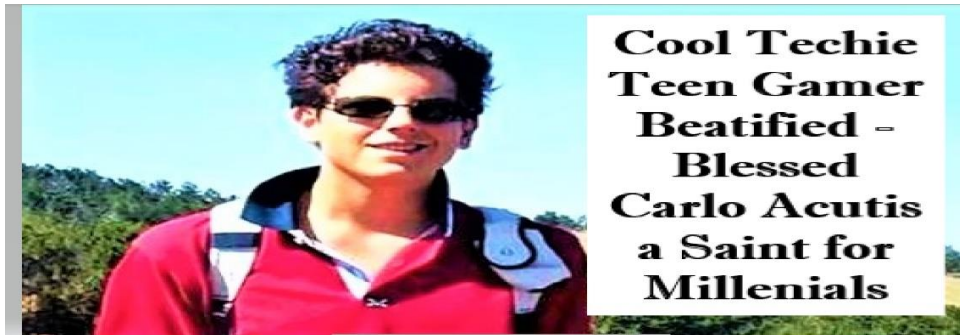
*“Our goal must be infinite, not the finite,”* he stressed. *“The infinite is our homeland. Heaven has been waiting for us forever.”*

What does the above quote tell us about how Carlos lived his life?

Is there anything that was discussed or videos you have watched that has really struck you?

Do you think it's possible that we can change our lives by hearing about people like Carlos?

Discuss the above two questions with the person next to you.



Hilda Campbell (D.A Kildare and Leighlin)