Modern Saint Series

Carlo Acutis Religious Activity

Carlo Acutis was canonized on September 7, 2025, becoming the first millennial saint. Carlo was a computer whiz and he created a website dedicated to Eucharistic Miracles before he died of leukemia at the age of 15. At his canonization, Pope Leo XIV called Carlo "an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upwards and make them masterpieces". He encouraged us all to look to heaven and not to earth for direction in our lives, quoting Carlo's saying: "Not I, but God". At his beatification in 2020, Pope Francis praised Carlo as an example of how young people can use technology to spread the Gospel to reach as many people as possible and help them know the beauty of friendship with the Lord. How can you emulate Carlo in your life?

The Carlo Acutis activity is part of the Modern Saint Series. This series honors 20th and 21st century Catholics who have had a profound impact on many people around the globe. The goal of each activity in this series is to help young people learn more about these outstanding Catholics so that young people might relate to what they have done and look to them as role models.

How to Participate in This Activity:

All: Read about Carlo Acutis. You can find information to fulfil the requirements on https://carloacutis-en.org/, https://www.ewtnvatican.com/articles/10-things-you-should-know-about-blessed-carlo-acutis-3825 or https://catholiconline.news/faith/canonizations-of-pier-giorgio-frassati-and-carlo-acutis-call-us-to-make-masterpieces-of-our-lives/. Feel free to use other resources.

First – Fifth Grade Students: Complete four requirements and two activities.

Sixth – Twelfth Grade Students: Complete five requirements and three activities.

Anyone who completes the necessary requirements and activities may receive a patch. Patches may be ordered online at https://nccsshop.org/product/carlo-acutis/.

Requirements:

1) Carlo is the first millennial to be canonized. Read about his short but extraordinary life in at least one of the online resources listed above. When and where was he born? When and where did he die? What is his feast day?

2) Carlo was very gifted with computer skills. He created a website about Eucharistic Miracles: https://www.miracolieucaristici.org/en/liste/list.html. Go to the site and read about two Eucharistic Miracles that happened in two different countries. How are the miracles similar to each other? How are they different from each other?

3) Beginning when he was seven years old, Carlo did something daily in order "to always be close to Jesus." What did he do?

4) What illness took Carlo's life? For what did he offer his suffering?

5) When was Carlo canonized? What miracle was attributed to him to support his cause for canonization? When was he beatified? What miracle was attributed to him to support the cause for his beatification?

6) Carlo was a typical teen and enjoyed playing video games. What system did he have and how often did he play? What did he do to keep video games from distracting him from more important things?

Activities:

1) “To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan” was Carlo’s motto. How can you apply this to your life?

2) Carlo was helpful in his community, especially in a local soup kitchen. Find a shelter or food pantry that serves those in need in your area and volunteer there with your family or Scout unit.

3) Carlo’s devotion to Mass and the Eucharist led to his mother’s return to the Catholic faith. Talk to someone about your faith and help them grow in theirs.

4) Carlo was devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He recited the Rosary daily beginning at a very young age. With your family or Scout unit, pray the Rosary.

5) With the help of your parent/guardian/Scout leader identify a charitable organization that funds ministry to those in need or supports pediatric cancer patients and/or research. Learn how you can help that organization and make a contribution. Some examples are Catholic Relief Services, Unbound, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation.

Requirements for Adults:

1) Assist young people in learning more about Carlo through this Modern Saint Religious Activity.

2) Share your thoughts about Carlo with young people.

3) Review the responses to the requirements by young people to confirm the accuracy of the responses and to help ensure young people understand the important lessons we can all learn from Carlo.

4) If young people are to receive a patch, purchase the patch from the NCCS online store: https://nccsshop.org/product/carlo-acutis/.

Answers to Requirements:

1) Carlo was born May 3, 1991, in London, England. He died October 12, 2006, in a town near Milan, Italy. He is buried in Assisi, Italy. His feast day is October 12.

2) Answers vary.

3) He went to daily Mass.

4) Carlo died of leukemia. When he was diagnosed with this disease, he said "I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church.”

5) Carlo was canonized on September 7, 2025. The miracle that was the cause for his canonization was the healing of a young woman in Italy in 2022 from a head injury after her mother’s intercession to Carlo. Carlo was beatified on October 10, 2020. The miracle that was the cause for his beatification was the healing of a Brazilian boy in 2013 from a rare disease after his mother’s intercession to Carlo.

6) Carlo had a PlayStation and only allowed himself to play for one hour a week. He limited his time playing video games so that the games would not distract him from becoming closer to Jesus. Carlo focused on heavenly goals instead of things that only offer pleasure on earth. 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."