A MID-SEMESTER CHECK-IN

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A profile on Blessed Carlo Acutis

The “computer whiz” saint is an inspiration to both young and old. Ever since his death in 2006 at age 15 of leukemia, Carlo Acutis’ story has captivated the world. The simple holiness of the teenage saint remains an inspiration to all, highlighting the truth that anyone can achieve holiness, no matter their state in life.

He was a well-loved Italian teenager who devoted himself to prayer and daily Mass as well as computer programming, film editing, website creation, editing and layout of comics. 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.” His mother said, “Carlo led a normal life: He went to school, he played sports, he played video games.” If there is to be any patron saint for video gamers, it should be Carlo Acutis. He is the perfect saint for the youth today and is a wonderful example of ordinary holiness.

Sadness is looking at oneself, happiness is looking at God. Conversion is nothing but a movement of the eyes.

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 traveled around the world.

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.

His mother said about 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... [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.”

He remains an inspiration, especially to the youth 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.

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.

If there is to be any patron saint for video gamers, it should be Carlo Acutis.

“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, his mother explained.

The church of San Giuseppe in Molfetta, Italy, has already installed the first stained glass window depicting Blessed Carlo Acutis, the 15-year-old beatified last year on October 10 by Pope Francis. His image—in jeans and sneakers—clashes with the traditional stained glass windows to which we are accustomed, and shows that holiness is closer to us than we think. As Carlo often said, “Our aim has to be the infinite and not the finite. The Infinite is our homeland. We have always been expected in Heaven.”

Author: Philip Kosloski  Source: Aletela
Want to grow in your faith in college?

Do these things:

**Mass**
Mon-Fri @ Duke Chapel @ 12 pm  
Sundays 11 am @ Goodson  
& 8 pm @ Duke Chapel

**Retreat**
After a successful Fall beach weekend and leadership retreat, the DCC will be having an all student retreat February 11-13, 2022. Mark your calendar!

**Service**
With the hiring of a full time Director of Social Justice & Outreach, the DCC has been able to do many new service events including a Habitat for Humanity build!

**Holy Hour**
Every Wednesday night in Goodson @ 8 pm, and it is followed by Reconciliation available @ 9 pm

**Small Groups**
Every day, students meet up to talk about the Gospel, share life, and grow in community. Scan the QR code on the reverse to sign up!

**Latinx Heritage Month**
One of our events was a Spanish Mass with Bishop Zarama (you can watch it on our YouTube channel)

**Music**
A great opportunity to praise the Lord in song or instrument (there are available instruments if you don't have yours with you)! Rehearsal every Tuesday @ the FAH @ 6 pm.

**Thankathon**
Every year the DCC students call all of the donors just to say *thank you* for supporting our ministry. *Thank you* oftentimes the best prayer of all!

**Visit the FAH**
We reopened the FAH with a week of fun activities and a beautiful blessing! Come by 402 N Buchanan Blvd! 
STUDENTS LIVING OUT THEIR FAITH AT DUKE

by the numbers

221 students in small groups
scan the QR to sign up for one if you aren’t already!

48 students on Ignite
(aka “Beach Weekend”)

45 Singers & Musicians
(Students involved in our music ministry!)

20 swing by the FAH any given day
to study, eat, meet with someone, pray, or just hang out! The FAH is at 402 N Buchanan Blvd, and is open 8 am to 10 pm every day. Come by!

PRAYER FOR THE INTERCESSION OF BL. CARLO ACUTIS

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).

And make our joy full, raising Carlo among
the saints of your Church,
so that his smile shines again for us
to the glory of your name. Amen.