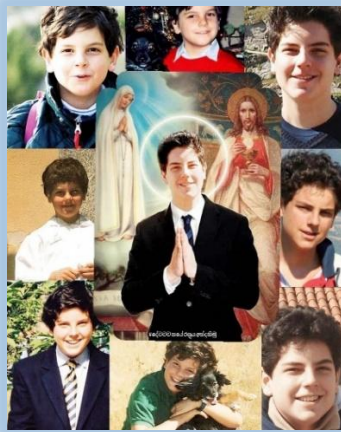


St. Laurence Catholic Parish
Elementary Children's Faith Formation (CCE)
Week 23 Lesson Plan (5th Grade)



Unit 4 Review: 5th Grade

How are we called to become missionary disciples of Jesus Christ?

EQ: Who is Saint Carlo Acutis and how is he a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ?

“The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven.”

Blessed Carlo Acutis

CATECHIST PREPARATION

To prepare for this week's lesson:

- Prepare your adult heart and mind by watching one of the following videos ahead of the lesson: [BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS: THE TECH TEEN WHO FOUND JESUS](#) or [CARLO ACUTIS: COMPUTER GEEK TOOK THE HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN](#) and [SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE OF EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES](#) to acquaint yourself with [Saint Carlo Acutis](#). Carlo was a teen who died at the age of 15 in 2006 and was beatified by the Catholic Church in 2020. Blessed Carlo is well on his way to Sainthood! An inspiration to his generation and many others, this young ‘computer geek’ who lived his ordinary life with a great love for Jesus and His presence in the Eucharist is not only the patron of the Internet but has also been dubbed the *First Millennial Saint*. Buried in a track suit and his favorite Nike shoes, Carlo makes connections to young and old alike.

For a peek at the trailer for the *Blessed Carlo* virtual reality game intent on continuing his mission of evangelization in the first ever Catholic metaverse (rolled out in October 2023) go to [BLESSED CARLO VR GAME](#).

This lesson on Blessed Carlo Acutis will make use of a special resource, copies of which **will be sent home with each of the 5th grade learners once the teaching is completed**. All catechists and learners will receive their own copy of the book, *Blessed Carlo Acutis: The Amazing Discovery of a Teenager in Heaven*, to take home. Copies for distribution to the students will be placed in the catechist's bin the day of the lesson

implementation. However, the catechists' copies will be made available the week beforehand for lesson preparation. This book is a very quick and easy read. It is recommended that those implementing this lesson do so beforehand. It can be done in one sitting. For reviews on the book, go to [GOOD BOOKS FOR CATHOLIC KIDS](#) or the [CATHOLIC TRAVEL GUIDE](#).

"Last fall, my family "discovered" Blessed Carlo Acutis through a Holy Heroes Glory Story CD. We learned about this amazing youth who managed to accomplish so much in just fifteen short years of life. My kids were enthralled not only by how young he was but how recently he had lived and how similar his life was to theirs. He died only a few years before they were born!

He wore jeans! *He used a computer!"*

"This young man is inspiring kids around the world as his story spreads."

<https://goodbooksforcatholickids.com/2022/06/10/blessed-carlo-acutis-review/>

- Review the appropriate grade-level learning targets from the *Catechetical Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation* (CFLFF) posted on the Catechist website at <https://stlaurence.org/the-catechist> for your age group. Keep these targets in mind as you prepare for and progress through the weekly lesson, making discussion points based upon these specific age-appropriate targets.
- Reflect upon a favorite Scriptural passage that you would like to share with your learners about how we are called to live as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, and explain why the passage is important to or resonates with you. Or, you might like to consider any one of the following:

[MATTHEW 28: 16-20](#), [2 TIMOTHY 2: 1-2](#), [LUKE 9: 23-24](#), [JOHN 13: 34-35](#), [ACTS 1:8](#),
[ROMANS 10: 14-17](#), [JOHN 15: 16-17](#), [COLOSSIANS 1: 28-29](#)

- Create a [Prayer Table](#) (or check out [How to Make a Prayer Table for Kids](#)) in a special corner of the classroom. Keep a Bible reverently displayed there to be used for readings in your lessons. When proclaiming *The Word* to children, it is more impactful to read directly from the Bible and not just from their workbooks. This gives them the sense that this is not just any book.
- Establish a comfortable learning space in your classroom for your session.

Supplies you may want to have on hand before beginning the Lesson:

- A *Catholic* family or children's Bible (go to [USCCB](#) for approved Bible translations); on campus, we use the [ST. MARY'S PRESS CHILDREN'S BIBLE](#), a classroom set of which is located in the "CCE" storage cabinet.
- An electronic device with reliable internet access (i.e., an in-class mounted TV or TV cart if a video will be watched as part of the lesson)
- Sticky notes
- Art or any unlined paper
- Crayons, markers and pencils as needed (located in the "CCE" storage and your class bin)
- (Optional): Materials necessary for any of the craft ideas selected during the EXTEND segment of the lesson



OPENING PRAYER

Begin your discovery session today with your learners in prayer. Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask the children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#) and then recite a favorite prayer, choose one of the [COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE](#) or sing [KING OF MY HEART](#) together as a class. Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).

ENGAGE

(Mental warm-up)

Say, “During this Unit, we have explored how if we open up our hearts to God’s call, that we can fulfill our Christian baptismal purpose of being missionary disciples for Jesus Christ. As a disciple, or follower, we are expected to be good witnesses to the life of Jesus Christ and spread the Good News of salvation that he offers us all. Throughout history, exemplary men, woman *and children* have heeded God’s call in normal and extraordinary ways, doing His will and becoming Saints in Heaven who are venerated and exemplified on earth. Their paths to holiness were not always easy, most suffered in real and sometimes tragic ways, but with God’s help, they followed His will for their lives. Let’s listen to one of my favorite passages from the Bible about how disciples are called to serve God’s Kingdom and glorify Him right here on earth ... *(Read your favorite passage from the Bible about the expectations of discipleship and explain WHY it is important to you or resonates with you)* ... When we decide to answer God’s call and follow Jesus, our lives change forever and can have a lasting impact on those around us.”

EXPLORE

(Pre-assessment of faith concepts)

Ask/Discuss, “What can you tell me about being a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ?”

- ❖ As the children share their ideas, have them jot a few down on a sticky note (with their name) and then place them on the wall in your discovery space. (For younger children, you may act as the ‘scribe’). Retain the sticky notes to have an understanding of what your learners already know or don’t know. This will be helpful as you move along through today’s lesson.
 - ❖ To facilitate thinking and discussion above, use some of the following prompts: What is a disciple? Can anyone be a disciple? How does someone know if they are *called* to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to *follow* Jesus Christ? What is the Good News (Gospel) message? What is the mission (or purpose) of the Church on earth? What does it mean to be a *missionary* disciple? What distinguishes a missionary disciple from just a follower of Jesus Christ? Who are the Saints in Heaven and what is the purpose of the Church canonizing them? What can we learn from the lives of the Saints? Are we all called to holiness and lives of virtue as heroic as the Saints? Who is a Saint that inspires me? What do I know about their life and why am I inspired by them? Can we be called to be Saints? *Plus, any others you can think of...*
-

EQ “Essential Question”

(This question serves as a cognitive bookend for the children – i.e., it is the targeted “so what” or “take-away” of the lesson being presented. If your learners can articulate a relevant answer to this question by the end of the session, you have done your job. 😊)

Share and post the physical representation of the lesson’s EQ in your classroom (Note: Each classroom is equipped with a set of *EQ posters* corresponding to those posted on the weekly *Lesson Schedule*):

Who is Saint Carlo Acutis and how is he a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ?

EXPLAIN

Together as a class, either:

- Read excerpts from the *Blessed Carlo Acutis: The Amazing Discovery of a Teenager in Heaven*, previously earmarked and/or prepared by the catechists, **or**
- Watch one of the two following videos together:
[THE INSPIRING LIFE OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS](#) (16:03), or
[BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS, AN INTERVIEW WITH HIS MOTHER ANTONIA](#) (23:10).

If time permits, another great video to add is [BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS' TOMB IN ASSISI REOPENS IN PERMANENT FORM](#) (6:04)

EXTEND

(After watching one of the videos linked above or reading excerpts from the book, *Saint Carlo Acutis: The Amazing Discovery of a Teenager in Heaven*, gather back together and invite children to share, in turn, what they learned about Saint Carlo Acutis and how he lived for an audience of one (i.e., God) as a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ and how his approach to life affected those around him. Affirm positive answers and interject grade-level learning targets into the discussion about how Catholics receive inspiration and courage from acquainting themselves with the lives of the Saints and imitating their exceptional virtues. As a class (or in small groups), come up with a list of *at least three new things* that the children learned, were surprised by or think others should know about how Saint Carlo made Jesus the center of his life. Then, *extend the lesson together by completing at least one of the activities* provided below).

Possible Lesson Extender Activities:

- After watching one of the videos noted above, or reading passages together from the *Saint Carlo Acutis: The Amazing Discovery of a Teenager in Heaven* book in the EXPLAIN section above, consider the following questions in small groups or together as a class.
(These questions have been excerpted from <https://holymheroes.com/products/glory-stories-cd-vol-17-blessed-carlo-acutis>, Blessed Carlo Acutis Educational Guide)
 - What sort of friendship did Carlo have with Jesus?
 - How did Carlo stay close to Jesus?

- What is so special about the Eucharist and why did Carlo want to receive it at such an early age? (pgs. 25-28 in the book) *Answers may vary: consuming the Eucharist makes us more like Jesus, we are the closest to Him we can be while on earth, etc.*
 - What Saint did Carlo want to be like and why? (pg. 28-31 and 52) *St. Francis of Assisi – he shared his care and concern for the poor and underserved and was struck by his great humility*
 - How many dogs did young Carlo have? (pg. 23) *4 dogs...plus cats!*
 - How did Carlo and his cousin, Flavia, spend their vacations? (pg. 24) *They made films about Carlo's pet dogs.*
 - Who taught Carlo computer programming? (pg. 36-38) *He taught himself by reading university-level textbooks!*
 - What did Carlo start designing when he was 11, and how long did it take him? (pg. 38-40) *A website about Eucharistic miracles...it took him 4 years to finish!*
 - What exciting thing happened as a result of Carlo's website? (pg. 38-42) *It was turned into an exhibit that was shown at a nearby parish and at the Vatican!*
 - What did Carlo do every day? (pg. 101) *He attended Mass (receiving the Eucharist), prayed the Rosary and spent time in Eucharistic Adoration before the Tabernacle on a daily basis.*
- **In quiet reflection, or by reading them out loud together in class, have the students consider some of *Carlo's Sayings*** (found on Pages 96-99 in the *Saint Carlo Acutis: The Amazing Discovery of a Teenager in Heaven* book). Then, individually or in small groups, have each learner answer the following questions, sharing their reflections with the class as time permits:
 - What kind of childhood did Saint Carlo have? What kinds of activities did he enjoy the most?
 - How is your own life or your interests like Blessed Carlo's? How are they different?
 - Which of Saint Carlo's sayings can you most identify with or has the most meaning to you?
 - Why was this particular saying (or sayings) meaningful to you personally? Explain.
 - How might the saying (or sayings) you chose influence your own Christian journey towards holiness? In what way or ways?
 - Are there any other particular aspects of Saint Carlo's life that inspire you? How?
 - If you could ask Saint Carlo just one question, what would that question be?
 - How might you strive to be more like Saint Carlo?
 - **Working together as a class, come up with some simple ways to practice Saint Carlo's virtues (choose at least one listed below):**

(These activity options have been excerpted from <https://holymen.com/products/glory-stories-cd-vol-17-blessed-carlo-acutis>, Blessed Carlo Acutis Educational Guide)

 - **Learn about *time management* by creating a daily schedule.**
Saint Carlo knew the importance of prioritizing his day. We should be using as much time as possible to serve God and others! By establishing a routine and setting small daily goals for ourselves, we can accomplish anything that we set our minds to.

“Carlo was always conscious about not wasting time. A clear example was his approach to video games. He had a *PlayStation*, and he liked to play video games. Be he decided *on his own* to limit his playing time to one hour per week. When his mother asked him why, he told her that he did not want to waste time.” (pg. 45, *Blessed Carlo Acutis: The Amazing Discovery of a Teenager in Heaven*).

Think of some of Carlo’s daily habits when forming your own goals or updating your regular routine.

Check out *Carlo’s “Kit” for Becoming a Saint* (found on pg. 101) of the *Saint Carlo Acutis: The Amazing Discovery of a Teenager in Heaven* book or Page 8 - *Be a Game Changer!* - of the [BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS RESOURCE PACK](#) for some ideas of what daily habits to instill in your own life in order to help you grow in holiness.

Use either of the [STUDENT GOAL PLANNING](#) or [GOAL PLANNING WORKSHEETS](#) to update your daily goals as you strive to exemplify some of Carlo’s habits in your own life.

➤ **Take steps to use technology for God.**

Technology is all around us, and just like anything else, we need to learn how to use it for the greater glory of God. The internet has the potential to be used for scary things, but can also be used as a tool to help evangelize the world (just like Carlo did with his Eucharistic Miracles website).

- Brainstorm as a class about ways that students can use the internet to *evangelize* (i.e., share the *Good News* with) others about Jesus and His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.
- As a class, explore the possible dangers of the internet and come up with a list of simple rules that should be followed to ensure your safety (i.e., remind learners of the [4th Grade Circle of Grace lesson](#) on social media and internet safety.
- In small groups, have your learners read the passage **Pope Francis Speaks about Blessed (now Saint) Carlo Acutis** from March 25, 2019 (found at the end of this lesson plan) and discuss how they can avoid the unhealthy traps of technology and social media in their lives. Have groups share their thoughts with the class, as time permits, and come up with a pact together to do so.

➤ **Identify what makes you unique in God’s eyes.**

Saint Carlo wanted everyone to become the person that God created them to be. We are not called to be just like everyone else...we are called to be saints!

“All of us are born to be originals, but most of us die as photocopies. Don’t let that happen to you!” *Blessed Carlo Acutis*

- Object Lesson:
 - Supplies Needed: An original photo of a family, school class or group of children *and* a printer photocopy of the original photo. If possible, ahead of time make a copy of each successive copy to show how the image is distorted with each copy that is printed.

- Adult leader will bring show the *original picture* to the students and have them 'study' it, then ask:
 - ❖ How clear is the image?
 - ❖ Can you see everyone's smiles?
 - ❖ What other details do you see?
 - Adult leader shows the copies of the original and 'copies of the copies' to the students then asks,
 - ❖ How does the image appear now? (With each iteration, the image will soon become unrecognizable)
 - Conclusion: When we try to 'fit in' with others by being a copy of them or change ourselves for other people, we cover up the beauty that is already inside of us!
 - Prepare the names of the students in the class beforehand on small sheets of paper. Fold them and place them in a hat, bag, bowl, etc.
 - Have each learner pick a name (not their own!) out of the hat.
 - Each student must write a list of 5 things that are beautiful or unique about the person whose name they drew. It could be a talent, a virtue, something they like or admire about that person, or a strength, etc.
 - Have each learner share their list with the group. We are called to lift each other up as we strive to become saints!
 - Have your learners complete the Page 7, *Be an Original, not a Photocopy!* worksheet provided in the [BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS RESOURCE PACK](#) and discuss how they can live their lives for an 'audience of one.'
- **Watch the Video:** [50 FACTS ABOUT CARLO ACUTIS](#) together as a class. After watching the video, divide the class up into teams and challenge them to write down as many facts about Saint Carlo as they can remember in a 2-minute timeframe. The team with the list containing the most verified facts *wins!*
 - **The Path to Sainthood:** All Christians are called to be saints. Saints are persons in heaven (officially canonized or not), who lived heroically virtuous lives, offered their life for others, or were martyred for the faith, and who are worthy of imitation. In official Church procedures there are three steps to sainthood: a candidate becomes "Venerable," then "Blessed" and then "Saint."

Together as a class, either read Pages 5-10 of the *Saint Carlo Acutis: The Amazing Discovery of a Teenager in Heaven* book about the canonization process in the Catholic Church *or*, watch one of the videos below:

[HOW DOES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH DECLARE OFFICIAL SAINTS?](#), [HOW DOES SOMEONE BECOME A SAINT?](#), or [STEPS TO SAINTHOOD: THE CANONIZATION PROCESS](#)

Then, review (or read out loud) Pages 64-89, paying *particular* attention to the *Decree on Virtues* (Pgs. 69-75) and *The Miracle* (Pgs. 80-82) summaries submitted to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints on Carlo Acutis' behalf. Spend some time in reflection with the following questions:

- What gifts and talents did Carlo receive from God and how were they used to glorify His Kingdom?
- How was Carlo's life *ordinary* or perhaps even similar to your own? How can you use those similarities on your own path to holiness?

- How was Carlo's life *extraordinary* – i.e., what virtues were exemplified during his short life?
 - What miracle has been attributed to Saint Carlo, affirming his presence in Heaven with God? What remains for him to be declared a Saint by the Church?
 - We all strive to live lives of holiness and be saints, however few are actually canonized by the Catholic Church as examples for the faithful to follow, celebrate and be inspired by. Do you think Carlo ever expected that he would one day be counted among the great commemorated Saints of the Church in Heaven?
 - If you could ask Saint Carlo one question about his life, what would that question be?
- Using the **BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS RESOURCE PACK**, have your learners complete one of the activities on Page 9 (*Carlo's Phone*), Page 12 (*Carlo's Life Plan*) or Page 13 (*Movie Poster*).

EVALUATE/REFLECT

Restate today's Essential Question (EQ) – *Who is Saint Carlo Acutis and how is he a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ?*

Summarize what's been learned during this lesson, emphasizing those concepts which may have been missed or misunderstood in the EXPLORE step above.

- **Say,** "A *missionary* disciple is a person who has encountered Jesus through a personal experience of the love and presence of God in their life. Because of this encounter, they have a fire lit inside of them (that's the Holy Spirit!) which burns with the desire to share that love and the truth of Jesus Christ with as many other people as possible. Missionary disciples are filled with a joy which they just can't contain and they feel that they must share it with everyone they meet. By choosing to say 'yes'— i.e., by surrendering themselves to God's love and to God's will for their lives – missionary disciples allow their *entire life* to be transformed and reigned over by this special relationship.

All Catholics, whatever their age or circumstance in life, have been called to proclaim the Gospel which is the *Good News* of God's Kingdom and His saving love. This is THE mission of the Church, or the People of God, on earth. *Evangelization* is a way that we spread this *Good News* to others. As evangelists sharing the *Good News*, we encounter people in the difficulties and messiness of their lives. This requires us to meet others where they are at and to truly be present for them. This takes place when we befriend them, listen carefully to them, share the Gospel with them, and extend an invitation to them to believe in Jesus' promises. Because we have decided to turn over our own challenges and problems to God's will because of our trust in Jesus Christ, we are able to help others begin to walk this same path.

Since the earliest recorded history of the Church, the faithful have honored the heroes of the faith who excelled in the practice of Christian virtue – including faith (obedience to God), hope (trust in God) and charity (love). As early as the first century, the anniversary of the martyrs' deaths was observed by the Christians who assembled at the tombs of the sainted victims and celebrated their memory by offering up the Holy Sacrifice (i.e., the

Mass) over their relics (remains). Given as gifts from God through Baptism to *all* Christians, these virtues (or strengths) which are particularly exemplified by the holy ones who lived before us are worthy of our imitation. Expressing honor to those who in life placed God first (oftentimes to their own detriment or even death), excelled in the practice of virtues and were held in special grace (or favor) with God is called the act of *veneration*. While we only worship (or adore) God as our supreme Lord, we honor (or venerate) the saints as His faithful servants and friends. We adore God for His own sake as our Creator and Father while we honor the saints for the gifts which God endowed them with and how their lives always point to God.

While *all* Christians are called to lives of saintly holiness, only some have lived such exceptional lives as to be officially declared *Saints* – or heroes of the Church - for all to imitate and honor. These are men, women *and even children* who were filled with the Holy Spirit and showed their love for God *above everything else* in their lives. They followed Jesus' example in both ordinary and extraordinary ways. We ourselves can learn a lot about being good missionary disciples by studying the lives of the Saints and following their habits or ways. Many of the Saints were able to lead lives of holiness *by consistently making intentionally good and loving choices*.

One such example of a young man who lived his short life for an *audience of one* (God!) is Saint Carlo Acutis, who at just 15 years of age died unexpectedly in 2006. From a young age, Carlo seemed to have a special love for God, even though his parents weren't especially devout. His mom said that before Carlo, she went to Mass only 3 times in her life - for her First Communion, her Confirmation, and her wedding. But as a young child, Carlo developed a deep devotion to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. He did not understand how churches could be empty and people would stand in line for hours to purchase concert tickets for their favorite band, but would not do the same to visit with Jesus. Carlo also loved to pray the Rosary. After he made his First Communion, he went to Mass as often as he could, and he made Holy Hours of Adoration before the Tabernacle before or after Mass. He went to confession weekly and asked his parents to use their vacation time to take him on pilgrimages — to the places of the Saints, and to the sites of Eucharistic miracles. Through his own actions, young Carlo influenced his parents' return to their Catholic faith.

Carlo was just a regular kid who played soccer, loved his pets, watched cartoons (his favorite was Pokémon!), liked to draw, loved playing video games on his PlayStation and went to school with his friends. He was known for defending kids at school who got picked on, especially disabled kids, and he always made a point of greeting those who worked at the school (especially the janitors) kindly. When a friend's parents were going through difficulties, Carlo made a special effort to include his friend in the Acutis' family life. Carlo found it easy to make friends and always looked out for the students who were somehow isolated and alone. He was known for his friendliness and generosity with his time.

At a young age, Carlo took a special interest in computers and became a programming expert by the time he was 11 years old by studying college textbooks. Before long, he was inspired to build a website (www.miracolieuucaristici.org) cataloguing and promoting the Eucharistic miracles of the world that he had researched on his pilgrimages with his parents. He did this to inspire more excitement about the Eucharist in a CCE class (which he helped to teach as a class assistant!) when he realized that most of the children (and

BONUS (optional)

- **What We Pray:** Saint Carlo Acutis loved to pray the rosary each day. Do you know how to pray the Rosary? Maybe you could start praying one decade every day and work up to the complete Rosary. A decade only takes about two minutes! Check out Page 18, *Praying the Rosary*, of the [BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS RESOURCE PACK](#) for instructions and some great resources. Make praying at least one decade of the Rosary each day a habit in your life.
- **Saint of the Week:** *Saint Francis of Assisi* was a special role-model for Blessed Carlo Acutis. From childhood, Carlo showed great charity towards others, first off for his parents, and secondly for the poor, the homeless, the marginalized and the elderly abandoned and alone, just like St. Francis. Additionally, Assisi, Italy, held a special place in Carlo's heart and his wish to be buried there was honored upon his death.

Find out more about St. Francis of Assisi by watching either [ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI: GO AND REBUILD MY CHURCH](#) or [BROTHER FIRE: ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI](#)

- What was special about Saint Francis of Assisi (i.e., what specifically is he remembered for)?
- How were Saint Carlo and Saint Francis' lives similar? How were they different?
- How did Saint Carlo live out his life using Saint Francis' example?
- How might you be influenced by the examples of both Saint Francis and Blessed Carlo?

Want to extend your lesson in class or at home about this topic? Check out these additional resources which can be used at the Catechist's discretion, if desired:

- **Catechist Preparation Videos/Resources:** [STEPS TO SAINTHOOD IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH](#), [INFLUENCER FOR GOD](#), [VENERATION OF SAINTS](#)
- **Lesson Plans:** [CATALOGUE OF EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES AROUND THE WORLD](#), [SEVEN LESSONS IN HOLINESS FROM BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS](#), [BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS RESOURCE PACK](#), [BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS PRIMARY LESSON](#), [HOLY HEROES BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS EDUCATION GUIDE](#), [BLESSED CARLO IN CATECHESIS](#), [BLESSED CARLO PAMPHLET](#), [ADORATION LESSON PLAN](#)
- **Videos:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2QYA7BiSa8> (Animated Video: *The Eucharist, My Highway to Heaven and Lanciano*) 49:00 (Great for children); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlVdai7BFA4> (Video: *The Inspiring Life of Blessed Carlo Acutis: The First Millennial Saint, Patron of the Internet*) 16:03 (Good for older children and youth) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgLtOF0G2sQ> 5:41 (50 Facts About Carlo Acutis) <https://ondemand.ewtn.com/> (*I Am with You, A Documentary on Carlo Acutis*) 35:00, \$1.99 to rent on EWTN <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEhqSQZmaV8> (*Blessed Carlo Acutis, Patron of the Internet*) 4:06 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC_oZIY_f5w (*The Life of Blessed Carlo Acutis*) 7:02 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46gZRfmvDRw> (*Catholic Voices, The Life and Witness of Blessed Carlo Acutis*) 15:59

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vY7W22vk0XA> (*The Transfer of the Body of Venerable Carlo Acutis to the Shrine of the Renunciation, Assisi 2019*) 3:52

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPiU93p0Qq8> (*The Moment of the Opening of the Tomb of the Venerable Carlo Acutis*) 37:09 (in Italian)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWa71FDoV_4 (*Holy Mass and Beatification of Carlo Acutis from the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi*) 2:00:45

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EspSdsrOmOg> (*The Moment of the Closing of the Tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis*) 3:41

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odS5lbGbs4U> (*Interview with Antonia Acutis – Mother of Blessed Carlo Acutis*) 1:29:36 (EXCELLENT Interview)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slJhg0EmsB8> 9:52 (Blessed Carlo Acutis Lesson)

- **On FORMED** (Refer to [INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING FORMED](#) to gain free access to the St. Laurence parish membership subscription).
 - *The Saints and Heroes Collection*
- **Activities/Games:** [EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES](#)

Pope Francis Speaks about Blessed Carlo Acutis

From *Christus Vivit*, 104-107
(March 25, 2019)

“It is true that **the digital world can expose you to the risk of self-absorption, isolation and empty pleasure.** But don’t forget that there are young people even there who show creativity and even genius. That was the case with...Carlo Acutis.

Carlo was well aware that the whole apparatus of communications, advertising and social networking can be used to lull us, to make us addicted to consumerism and buying the latest thing on the market, obsessed with our free time, caught up in negativity. **Yet he knew how to use the new communications technology to transmit the Gospel, to communicate values and beauty.**

Carlo didn’t fall into the trap. He saw that many young people, wanting to be different, really end up being like everyone else, running after whatever the powerful set before them with the mechanisms of consumerism and distraction. In this way they do not bring forth the gifts the Lord has given them; they do not offer the world those unique personal talents that God has given to each of them. **As a result, Carlo said, “everyone is born as an original, but many people end up dying as photocopies”. Don’t let that happen to you!**

Don’t let them rob you of hope and joy, or drug you into becoming a slave to their interests. Dare to be more, because who you are is more important than any possession. What good are possessions or appearances? **You can become what God your Creator knows you are, if only you realize that you are called to something greater.** Ask the help of the Holy Spirit and confidently aim for the great goal of holiness.

In this way, you will not be a photocopy. You will be fully yourself.”

Revised 7/3/25