

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

Every few years we get this chance to reflect together on the truth of our faith we call "the Communion of Saints." Saints: holy ones. Holy ones: people who are like God, like Jesus. The eternal Son of the Father made himself like us—so that we could be like him.

On November 1, we celebrate with admiration and gratitude the Christians whom the Church has recognized as holy during their lifetime. "By *canonizing* some of the faithful (that is, by solemnly proclaiming that they practiced heroic virtue and lived in fidelity to God's grace), the Church recognizes the power the Spirit of holiness within her and sustains the hope of believers by proposing the saints to them as models and intercessors." (CCC 828)¹

So, Carlo Acutis, (died at the tender age of 15 in 2006) is recognized for his transparent faith, his use of his natural gifts to pro-mote the Reign of God, his life of devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to Mary, Jesus' Mother. He also was devoted to several young-youngish saints (including Jacinta and Francisco Marto, children who witnessed the apparitions of the Blessed Mother at Fatima, Portugal, and Francis of Assisi).



Some people say he was too young to have been really tested by life. But given the life that was his to live, he lived it in a prayerful, generous, loving way. Can't beat that.

There are millions of Christians and others whose lives are less well-known than Carlo's and whose life of prayer and kindness and sometimes heroism can't be held up for the rest of us to follow. These include many of our loved ones (my mom and dad, some of my other relatives and many of my acquaintances are people I think of). But both the "Saints" and the "Holy Souls" whom we commemorate on November 2, belong to us, and we to them. We remember them with love and we pray that our lives and theirs will finally be recognized by all as the works of God's mercy in saving us from ourselves and whatever evil influences threaten us.

Let us pray gratefully for one another. **God is good**, we are learning to say. **All the time**, let us lift each other up in prayer.

Happy Holy Days, Friends!

Msgr. Mike and Fr Albert

