



On His Way to Sainthood Carlo Acutis

Carlo Acutis is the first millennial to be beatified. Credit: www.carloacutis.com

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 for her First Communion, her Confirmation, and her wedding. But as a young child, Carlo 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 before or after Mass. He went to Confession weekly.

He asked his parents to take him on pilgrimages — to the places of the saints, and to the sites of Eucharistic miracles. **There was fruit of Carlos' devotion in his life. His witness of faith led to a deep conversion in his mom,** because, according to the priest promoting his cause for sainthood, he “managed to drag his relatives, his parents to Mass every day. It was not the other way around; it was not his parents bringing the little boy to Mass, but it was he who managed to get himself to Mass and to convince others to receive Communion daily.”

He was known for defending kids at school who got picked on, especially disabled kids. When a friend's parents were getting a divorce, Carlo made a special effort to include his friend in the Acutis family life. **And he promoted Eucharistic miracles, especially through a website he built to promote them.** On the site, he told people that “the more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven.” When Carlo got sick, his life of faith increased. He was intentional about offering up his suffering for the Church, the pope, and for people who were suffering with illness.

Here's what we know: Carlo loved playing video games. His console of choice was a Playstation, or possibly a PS2, which was released in 2000, when Carlo was nine. We know he only allowed himself to play games for an hour a

week, as a penance and a spiritual discipline, but he wanted to play much more. Here's what we don't know: What games he liked to play. Tony Hawk Pro Skater 2? Gran Turismo 3? His mom says he enjoyed Pokemon and Super Mario. Carlo also apparently liked sports and the outdoors. But, well, a lot of saints liked soccer. How many liked playing Kingdom Hearts? (or whatever game he liked to play.) (The Catholic Witness)