DERRY DIOCESAN CATECHETICAL CENTRE

Introduction to Blessed Carlo Acutis

Everyone is born as an original, but many people end up dying as photocopies".
Don't let that happen to you!

Background

Carlo Acutis was born on 3 May 1991 in London, England but his parents moved to Milan, Italy in September 1991. He was very religious as a child. He said the Rosary daily. He had a great devotion to the Eucharist and went to daily Mass. He received the Sacrament of Reconciliation once a week.

He was noted for his cheerfulness and for the support he gave friends who were in difficulty.

He also defended the rights of the disabled and defended disabled peers at school when bullies mocked them. He loved travelling but loved to visit Assisi more than other places.

He had a passion for technology. His mother Antonia said that Carlo did not want to become a slave to technological games, so he only played on his PlayStation, once a week. He wanted to be free. At age 14 he designed a website to share his great love for the Eucharist.

He developed leukaemia and died on 12 October 2006. He was just 15 years old.

His mother Antonia admits that she did not fully understand her son's religious fervour. She acknowledged that she was '*quite ignorant in the faith things*.'(CNN interview 17 June 2020) She said that it was her son's faith that brought her back to the Church. Under his influence she began to attend daily Mass. She said that her faith helped her and her husband cope with the death of their only child. Since then the family have had blessed with twins.

Almost immediately after his death, people touched by Carlo's life began praying to him. The calls for him to be beatified began not long after he died and gained significant momentum in 2013 when he became a 'Servant of God.'. In July 2019 he was declared Venerable by Pope Francis. On 10 October 2020 Carlo became Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Pope Francis states that Carlo is a role model for young people today who are often tempted by the traps of "self-absorption, isolation and empty pleasure."

Carlo, Pope Francis said, understood,

> 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. (Christus vivit, 105)

Carlo, he said, 'didn't fall into the trap.' He did not allow himself to be influenced by consumerism. He focussed instead on the gifts and talents given to him by God.

References

Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation ***CHRISTUS VIVIT*** of the Holy Father **Francis** to Young People and to the entire People of Go