

Blessed Carlo Acutis – A Young Saint in the Making

by Daniel Nosek

Blessed Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said, “It does not take much time to make a saint; it takes only much love.” Blessed Carlo Acutis, a few steps away from being declared a saint, may soon become a real-life proof of that statement in our time.

Carlo Acutis was born in 1990 in London, England, but within months of his birth, his family relocated to Italy, where he was raised in Milan, and buried in Assisi in 2006, at the age of 15.

So strong was Carlo’s love of Jesus in the Eucharist that as a child he would ask to be taken into churches to be with Jesus, present in the tabernacle, and would spend considerable time there. Such was his devotion that the local bishop permitted Carlo to make his First Communion at the age of only seven, contrary to the local custom.

During this same period of time, his family had a housekeeper who would accompany Carlo to and from school. The housekeeper was from a priestly Brahmin caste, a Hindu. His father was a Pandit, a Hindu priestly figure. For this housekeeper to convert to Catholicism was almost unthinkable. However, by the way in which young Carlo described the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and through Carlo’s gentle teaching of the Gospel contained within the Bible, the housekeeper converted to Catholicism in 1999.

As a boy, Carlo would bring food and blankets to the homeless in Milan. He would use his own money to buy them sleeping bags, or coax his mother to do so.

As a child, Carlo was known by a priest in Assisi, Father Fortunato, to have said, “People who put themselves before the sun get tanned. People who place themselves before the Eucharist become saints.”

Carlo was disturbed that people would wait



“By standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy.

in line to obtain tickets for a rock concert or sporting event but there are no lines of people waiting to meet Jesus at the Tabernacle.

Carlo taught himself how to create websites by studying college textbooks and was able to develop considerable computer skills. He created websites for his church and his high school. Wanting to teach people about the awesome gift of the Eucharist, and share his love of the Blessed Virgin Mary, he cataloged and researched all the Eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions recognized by the Catholic Church, travelling widely to obtain photographs and conduct research. He then created a website where anyone with access to the Internet can learn about these historic miracles. This website is still available at <http://www.miracolieucaaristici.org>.

Two months prior to his death, Carlo predicted it was coming soon. He died very quickly of an extreme form of Leukemia. He offered the suffering of his death for the Pope and for the Church.

See blessed Carlo, page 6

Three Parish Teens Attend National Catholic Youth Conference

NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) is a powerfully unique three-day experience of prayer, community, evangelization, catechesis, service, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers (of high school age) and their adult chaperones.

NCYC is the premiere Catholic youth event on a national scale that gathers people from all across America for a life-changing encounter with Christ.

We had the three teens below and their chaperone Gideon Lamb attend this year from November 16-18, 2023 in Indianapolis, IN.



By Meghan Lamb

It was very difficult for me to narrow down my favorite memories of NCYC but some of my favorite ones were the speakers we saw in the mornings and afternoons at the Lucas Oil Stadium. Sr. Josephine Garrett was hilarious and brought up the energy, which is an impressive feat, given that this was in a stadium full of teenagers and tired adults at 7:00 in the morning. I also really liked listening to Bishop Joseph Espailat because he was good at conveying the message that he was trying to convey to a large audience of teenagers without feeling like he was talking down to us or trying too hard to fit in. Another notable mention to me is Vallimar Jansen, a speaker on the final day of NCYC because she successfully got audience members to communicate with more people than were just in their parish community and was also very good at bringing up our energy levels. Overall, NCYC was an outstanding experience and I highly recommend it to everyone!



By Nathanael Patterson

NCYC was one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had. I had no idea that one event could contain so much beauty and reverence and incredible fun at the same time. There was prayer, there was music, there were talks; any time everyone was gathered in the stadium for whatever it was at that time, the energy was wild. When everyone prayed together, the unity that was felt in those moments was truly beautiful. When they had adoration with everyone in the stadium, that was one of the most moving moments of my life, thousands of young men and women just bowing down in worship to Our Lord. When you looked around and saw all these teens on their knees and the sincerity on their faces, it was so beautiful. When there was music, it was so epic to have 13,000 Catholic teens and youth ministers on their feet singing praise to the Lord. It's always a thrill to be with so many teens gathered for the same reason, but when all of them are Catholic, just like you, it's unlike anything else.



NCYC, continued from page 2

By Josh Richardson

I attended the National Catholic Youth Conference last November. We spent time at breakout sessions in Lucas Oil Stadium, attending talks, walking around the exhibit hall during the afternoon, and returning to the stadium for the evening general session before returning to the hotel. All of the talks were very well done and helped me better understand my faith. I enjoyed all of them. It was also very exciting to hear all of the bands live. To have the privilege of attending NCYC 2023 was wonderful. It was so amazing to see so many Catholic teenagers all in the same place united together to grow their faith. I want to thank everyone who donated or bought a pie which helped fund the journey for Meghan, Nathanael, me, and our chaperone, Mr. Lamb, who I also want to thank for joining us. I will definitely attend the next conference and I can't wait. And I encourage anyone who can to join us.



The beaver hats were a big hit. Meghan's mom and Gideon's wife Jen made the hats.



9 Days for Life – Respect Life Ministry Update

by Larry Smith

Respect for life from conception to natural death is a tenet of our Catholic faith. Your parish Respect Life Ministry strives to help parishioners educate themselves on respect life issues.

New Year's Reflection

How do we live out the message of Christmas in the New Year, rather than pack it away with the ornaments?

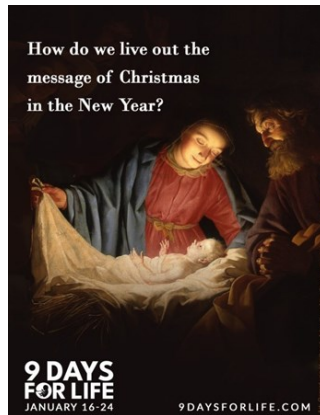
Each year, the Octave Day of Christmas falls on the first day of the New Year, on which we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

Her open heart and courageous “yes” to God show us how to live year-round—with hearts open to the Lord, following where He leads. We are called to place our trust in Him, to enter compassionately into the suffering of others, and to love one another as Christ loves us. Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance.

One way to live out the message of Christmas and follow Our Lady's example is to join 9 Days for Life, a novena for the protection of human life, taking place Tuesday, January 16 – Wednesday, January 24. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

Join today at 9daysforlife.com!

Copyright © 2023, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.



Times of Joy—Sacramental Milestones

Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from October 5, 2023 to January 8, 2024. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.



Isabel Ryan Wojewodzic, child of Alan & Kelly
James Joel Fuschino, child of Justin & Patricia
Emeree Marion Pettit, child of Reece & Ashley
Ellarie Grace Cremo, child of Anthony & Amy
Timothy Joseph Nally, child of Joseph & Mary
Noelle Gilda Nally, child of Luke & Elizabeth



These couples were married between October 5, 2023 and January 8, 2024. We wish God's blessing upon them.



Sheila Masterpolo to Josh Horning

Erin Ferraro to Michael Cimino

Saint Manuel González García – Bishop of the Abandoned Tabernacle

by Daniel Nosek

Manuel González García was born in 1877 in Seville, Spain, the fourth of five brothers. As a child, he sang in his church choir and at the age of ten, he joined the choir at the Cathedral of Seville. As a child, he received his calling to the priesthood. He joined the seminary in Seville when only twelve years old. While in the seminary, he wrote, “If I would be born a thousand times; a thousand times I would be a priest.” He was ordained into the priesthood in 1901. While celebrating his first Mass, he entrusted himself to the intercession of Mary, Help of Christians.

Early in 1902, García was sent by his bishop to preach in a parish church. When he arrived there, the church was in disrepair, unclean and unattended; the tabernacle, abandoned. He took to his knees before the tabernacle and later wrote of that occasion as follows: “My faith was looking at Jesus through the door of that tabernacle, so silent, so patient, so good, gazing right back at me....His gaze was telling me much and asking for more. It was a gaze in which all the sadness of the Gospels was reflected; the sadness of “no room in the Inn”; the sadness of those words, “Do you also want to leave Me?”; the sadness of poor Lazarus begging for crumbs from the rich man’s table; the sadness of the betrayal of Judas, the denial of Peter, of the soldier’s slap, of the spittle in the Praetorium, and the abandonment of all. All of this sadness was there in that tabernacle, oppressing and crushing the sweet Heart of Jesus and drawing bitter tears from his eyes.”^[1] At that moment, he decided he must dedicate himself to bringing people to devotion and praise to Jesus Christ in the Eucharistic with charitable demonstrations of His love for us.

Later in 1902, he was assigned to the parish of San Petro de Huelva. “In Huelva he paid careful attention to the disadvantaged people and promoted schools devoted to assisting them and bringing to them teachings pertaining to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ. In addition he was also concerned with the working class and helped to provide food for the children whose parents worked as miners; he did this even more so than usual during the winter of the 1913 strike the workers participated in.”^[2]

In 1910, García founded The Disciples of St. John whose mission was focused on St. John and the Eucharist. In 1920, he was named Bishop of Málaga and then in 1935, Bishop of Palencia, where he served until his death. He went on to found the Eucharistic Missionaries of Nazareth, the Children of Reparation and the Disciples of St. John.

Bishop García fell ill in 1939 and died in 1940. Per his



wishes, he was buried in the Cathedral of Palencia close to the tabernacle: “I wish to be buried next to the tabernacle, so that my bones, after death, as my tongue and my pen in life, are saying to those who pass: there is Jesus! ... Do not leave him abandoned!”

The cause for Bishop García’s sainthood started in 1981. In 1998, the Church recognized the 1953 miraculous cure from tuberculosis of an 18 year old girl. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2001.

A second miracle involved a woman suffering from an aggressive form of cancer. When she requested Last Rites, the priest, unable to go to her, sent a relic of Bishop García to her instead. Less than a week later, the cancer had completely disappeared, with no medical explanation possible.

Bishop García was canonized a Saint of the Roman Catholic Church on October 16, 2016 by Pope Francis.

The feast day of Saint Manuel González García is February 4.

Between February 15 and 20, the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Glenville will be host to a relic of Saint Manuel González García which will be available for veneration at times which will soon be announced. Watch the IC Church bulletins and website for further details and opportunities to volunteer during this great event.

^[1] Victoria Schneider, “The Bishop of the Abandoned Tabernacle: St. Manuel González García,” pp. 23-24

^[2] Wikipedia, “Manuel González García (bishop)”

Blessed Carlo, continued from page 1



During Carlo's lifetime, his parents were unable to have any other children, despite seeking medical help. Four years to the day after Carlo's death, his mother gave birth to twin daughters, a gift that she attributes to Carlo's intercession.

His canonization cause started in 2013 when in Brazil, a child was miraculously cured of a malformation of the pancreas after his parents prayed a novena to Carlos Acutis asking for his intercession. The cure could not be explained by medical science. After two years of review by the Vatican, the cure was declared to be a miracle and that cleared the way for the beatification of Carlo in 2018. Thereafter, his body was moved from Milan to Assisi, where it rests today.

Carlo said, "Jerusalem is right at our doorstep." He explained that we are so much luckier than the people who lived in the time of Jesus Christ who had to travel to Jerusalem or the surrounding area to be with him. To meet Jesus Christ in body, blood, soul and divinity, we only have to visit our local Catholic church, where he awaits us. He wants us to go to him. He wants us to receive him also in Holy Communion to nourish our souls and conform us to himself.

The information in his Eucharistic miracles website was used to create a large collection of placards, one for each Eucharistic miracle, which has toured the world. This is the "Vatican International Exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles" which will very soon be on display at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Glenville between February 15 and 20. This is a tremendous honor which positions Glenville solidly among the other great cities of the world. But at the same time, we will also have a relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis.

In an even greater honor, relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Saint Manuel González Garcia will be available for veneration at various times during the period that the Exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles is here. Watch the IC Church bulletins and website for further details and opportunities to volunteer during this great event.

The feast day of Blessed Carlo Acutis is October 12.

There is a fine documentary by EWTN titled, "I Am With You – a Documentary on Carlo Acutis." It is available to be watched free of charge at <https://ondemand.ewtn.com/>; or purchased from the EWTN Religious Catalog (<https://www.ewtn.com/religious-catalogue>). That documentary was the primary source of information for this article. There is also a great biographical sketch in Wikipedia.



Spotlight and Catching up with Maria Yorkshire by Annette Botsford

In this *Pipeline* series, we hope to familiarize parishioners with those among us whom we see often but know little about. Readers are invited to contact Annette Botsford at annettemarie829@gmail.com with suggestions of future subjects for this feature.

We asked Maria to give us an update on herself and her new position. She was so kind to be willing to do this at such a busy time of year. Maria is truly a blessing to our parishes.

Maria wrote:

There have been so many changes since I started working for Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph's, and Our Lady of Grace in 2021... some very sad, some very difficult, but most a great blessing to me. As of July, of this year, I was offered and accepted a new position as Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation for Kindergarten–5th grades. I was extremely excited and nervous! It's not at all what I thought was going to happen when I started, but we plan, and God laughs.



Maria's answers to a few questions:

AB: What are your goals for your first year in this job?

MY: This year, our Faith Formation and Youth Ministry programs are changing very little. In the new year, Paula, Fr. Tom, and I, along with an advisory board and input from others, will begin our "dream" sessions for the future of our programs.

AB: What do you think will be the most exciting part of your job? Most challenging?

MY: The most exciting part of my job is seeing the joy on the children's faces during sessions and special events. I also love to see the dedication of my amazing catechists and other volunteers.

The most challenging part is getting it all done within the limit of only having 24 hours in a day, lol. Seriously, though, I am so grateful for everything I learned in the two years in my prior position. It has helped me enormously in my new position.

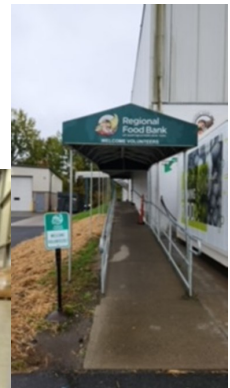
AB: Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

MY: I am so grateful for the support, encouragement, and collaboration of our Pastor, Fr. Tom! His support helps me to accomplish my job for the families and children of our tri-parish communities.

I am so blessed to work with our wonderful staff at all three parishes. I get to work every day with Paula Battista-Genter, our Pastoral Associate for Youth and Adult Ministries. We worked together years ago at Catholic Charities Senior and Caregiver Support Services. To be able to work together again has been an incredible blessing!

I also have to thank so many of my fellow parishioners at all three churches for their kindness, help, and support!

Recapping Morning of Service 2023



Over 100 parishioners participated in the 2023 Morning of Service held on October 21. Volunteers gave their time at the Regional Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Joan Nicole Prince Home and the Anchor Diamond Park.

Volunteers working in-house made 50 lunches for City Mission, 25 lunches for Habitat, 67 “Thinking of You” cards for nursing home residents, scrap-book pages for the NICU at Albany Med, and 29 blankets for the Northern Rivers Early Childhood Center.