

Opening Prayer:

FATHER, You have so generously given us the life testimony of young Blessed Carlo Acutis.

He made the Eucharist and the Rosary the core and strength of his daily spiritual commitments.

We pray that soon he will be counted among the Saints of Your Church, sharing Your Love as witnessed by his life and theirs.

For ourselves, we ask You to deepen our faith; nurture our hope and increase our charity as did young Carlo, who lived these virtues so freely and lived a life beyond borders.

Stir into flame Your HOLY SPIRIT within us and grant us the graces that we need to become friends and disciples of JESUS, as we ask the intercession of Blessed Carlo, who now lives with You.

In JESUS' Name, we pray. Amen

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In preparing to share about JESUS and Blessed Carlo as Best Friends, and your own invitation to be 'Best Friends', the LORD inspired this presentation as an interview.

Journalist: JESUS, thank You for being with us - for always being with us! Carlo, thank you for joining us.

JESUS, we are here today for this interview to learn about the Friendship to which you invite us and Carlo is here to share about his friendship with You and his unfolding mission.

JESUS: You are welcome! Thank you for this opportunity to be with all of you, being united in prayer, lifting our hearts and minds to our Heavenly FATHER. It's always a great way to begin... It is one of the reasons that I came - for you to meet, know, love and serve our Heavenly FATHER, bringing salvation to all GOD's Children. It gives Me great joy to be with you and to tell you how much I enjoy being with each of you.

I'm always available and I want you to know that I AM REAL and that I love you very much! You are all my beloved children. I wait for you in every present moment and I want to become your Best Friend

like I was to Carlo!

Journalist: Yes, JESUS, we want to learn how to be your Best Friend and hear from Carlo, too!

Carlo, thank you, too, for joining us and sharing about your Best Friend, JESUS.

Carlo: It's good to join you, too! I knew about JESUS as a little boy. And then once when I began to visit Him in His Home - our Churches on a regular basis, I just wanted to go and to talk to Him, to know all about Him. Wherever I was, I wanted to visit Him! HE is REAL and HE is PEACE! So, naturally, when I felt that He was inviting me to be a friend and a disciple, I just knew that I had to follow Him! I was so happy, and when you follow Him, you will be happy, too!

Journalist: JESUS, would you like to begin?

JESUS: First I'd like to tell you that before the world and everything in it was created, each of you was within US - the HOLY TRINITY. It is a mystery among many mysteries that you will experience.

Each of you was created from US - Who are Eternal LOVE - for a specific time and placed in special families. Each of you has been given gifts and created with an internal, spiritual design unique only to you. You come to know us through Our Love through parents, family and friends and those placed in your life.

As Baptized children, you are each given the opportunity with grace, the Sacraments and the help and aid of your Guardian Angel to choose 'this unique way' for you.

Journalist: JESUS, many say that we are pilgrims on a journey to Heaven and that this is not our home here on earth. Would you like to comment?

JESUS: First of all, at your Baptism, you joined Me and My Journey. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. This is the reason that it is so important to seek Me each day and often in prayer, listening and sharing. This is what friends do!

Remember, I am always available! Just stop what you are doing, pause and understand with your heart.

Each of you are our Beloved children, just like Carlo, and as friends, we speak heart to heart.

If you find it hard to be still and listen, then ask Me to help you. I'm always ready. I cherish time with you!

Journalist: JESUS, how did you call Carlo to be your friend?

JESUS: By coming and visiting Me at My House - Our Churches - he found peace and happiness and was invited to be my Friend, a Saint. He said, 'Yes!' and I took his hand and our hearts became one and the journey continues. Best Friends ~ Forever!

Who are the Saints? They are My Best Friends! They spend time with Me; they come to know My Love for them and they love Me in return by spending time, sharing and following Me. We converse with each other about many things. We listen to each other. Sometimes we just remain in silence. Silence is GOD's LOVE Language and just being with each other is gift. Other times, when the cross weighs heavy, I give encouragement, patience and courage, whatever is needed. With Me, I am, always available and, with Me, you will have peace and happiness no matter what is going on in your life.

One of My Saints, Pope John Paul II shared about his life with Me. He said, "It is JESUS that you seek when you dream of happiness. He is waiting for you when nothing else satisfies you...it is He Who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your hearts your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle." In seeking Me, Jesus, you will find happiness.

Journalist: JESUS, I recently read that every person seeks purpose and happiness, and has a deep desire, that is hidden to many, to see GOD Face to Face.

JESUS: Yes, it is true. We, The Holy Trinity, created everyone to have a heart that will only find rest and peace in US. Our deepest desire is to speak heart to heart. My prayer was and is: 'May they all be one, as You, FATHER, are in Me and I am in You.' Several of Our Eucharistic Miracles of the world reveal the Eucharist as My Very Heart, alive and inviting all of My children 'to come follow Me.' Carlo's love for Me in the Eucharist set him on the path to help others to believe and to seek a deeper friendship with Me, reaching out through the media.

Journalist: Carlo, it seems that you did, indeed, hear JESUS and lived a happy life, even though it was short. Would you like to tell us a little about yourself?

Carlo: Yes, sure. First of all, I would like to thank JESUS for being with us and for being My Best Friend! I'm very glad that I can share about JESUS

and how He is inviting each of you to be Best Friends, too!
I will simply say: "Sadness is looking at ourselves. Happiness is looking towards GOD. Conversion is nothing but a movement of the eyes." JESUS is always speaking to us; sometimes, we are too busy or not listening or believing that it is Him. JESUS first hides in our inner voice, as He hides in the Eucharist. Then, when we 'pay closer attention', we can hear or see Him more clearly.

Journalist: Carlo, your parents lived in London when you were born. When did you and your family return to Italy?

Carlo: Yes, I was born in London on May 3, 1991 to my loving parents, Antonia and Andrea Acutis.
I was the first born and only child. I was baptized on May 18, 1991 at Our Lady of Dolours Church, or Our Lady of Sorrows, which was also the Birthday of Pope Saint John Paul II. Later that year, our family moved back to Milan.

Journalist: Your Parents were Catholic, but not devout. They rarely went to Mass. So who taught you about JESUS?

Carlo: As GOD would provide, I had a nanny named Beata from Poland, who was very religious. She helped care for me. She often talked to me about GOD's Love and His Son JESUS - so many beautiful stories. She had such a love for JESUS - .I wanted to know about Him, too.

My Mother said that by 3 years old, I loved visiting Churches. When we went walking past a Church, I always wanted to go inside to say 'ciao' or hello to JESUS. After a little time talking to JESUS from my heart, I would feel happy!

I talked to JESUS about my family and JESUS also told me about His Family, especially His Mother.

JESUS said that we were all family. I also had a very special place in my heart for our Blessed Mother Mary.

On June 16th, 1998, after preparation and at 7 years old, I received Holy Communion, the Body of CHRIST for the first time! I will always remember that day - that Holy Mass! I prayed and studied; it seemed that I had waited a long time to receive JESUS! Then, after receiving Him, I thought: now I have JESUS in me and He can help me even more. I was so very happy and filled with so much joy! I couldn't keep from smiling! From then on, I never missed Mass. I would always stay and pray. It was my special time with JESUS. JESUS and the Holy Eucharist became the

center of my life. I would often tell others: 'The Eucharist is my Highway to Heaven.'

When JESUS calls me home, I wanted to go directly to Heaven with Him.

As I spent time with JESUS and His Mother, there was a great yearning for me to do something special for GOD!

JESUS: When Carlo made Me and the Holy Eucharist the center of his life, it, too, was a joy for Me! Just as Carlo waited for Me, I, also, wait for all of My Companions.

We wait in Our Churches - Our Homes built for us to receive our children.

We long for our children, to spend time with them, bringing them nourishment, forgiveness and healing.

With grace, the Sacraments and with his desire to be as close to Me as he could here on earth, he received deeply and profoundly Our Love - My Very Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity!

Carlo: Yes, and this is what I want to share with everyone! JESUS is real and desires so much for us to receive Him. He wants us to know His Love, especially in the Eucharist.

I wanted to invite JESUS - Truly Present in the Eucharist - with a pure heart so that I could enter more deeply into this mystery of GOD's greatest act of Sacrificial Love and to receive JESUS into my heart. JESUS lives within me; GOD is the closest to us on earth when we receive Him.

It was then that I knew I wanted to know more and more about JESUS so that I could tell others about Him - not just with words but by my actions in my daily life.

Journalist: What happened that made you want to help others? Your spiritual world seemed to belong to another time.

Carlo: I was asking a lot of questions - especially about JESUS, the Saints and His Family.

I read about many Saints and was especially inspired by Blessed Giacomo Alberione and his commitment to use modern means of communication to evangelize. He founded several religious communities; in Boston, St. Louis, and in about 50 countries as the Daughters of Saint Paul.

Also, my very loving Mother took various theology classes so that she could help answer my questions.

My Father was so generous and always supportive of my spiritual growth and together they were a tender couple 'falling in Love with JESUS,' too.

Of course, I learned about JESUS and the Catholic Faith in my school classes.

When I became older, I talked to my Pastor, too.

As I spent time with JESUS, I began to see things as He does. I responded with my heart, which I had given to JESUS and became His home.

It's almost like being blind and in the dark; then one day you see - you see so clearly and there is light and color.

We are all born originals, but many die as photocopies!

I wanted to make every moment count to live for JESUS and be His Best Friend, sharing Him with everyone.

Journalist: How was school for you?

Carlo: I was an average student and later I enrolled at Leo XIII Jesuit High School.

At school, one time I was the only one in the classroom that said that abortion was wrong!

When they would make fun of someone or

try to bully someone, I always tried to be like JESUS, showing my love and concern and in a gentle way, helping the other person to see how JESUS sees.

Journalist: What were your hobbies or what did you like to do in your free time?

Carlo: I had hobbies, but my favorite past time was being with my family and friends.

I would often just have family or friends over. Family times were so filled with warmth and love; I could understand JESUS' Family because of my own. Sometimes, my friends needed a place to just come and be themselves. Some of my friends had some troubles in their families and it would help them. We would make up skits, sing, dance and play video games. Though, I would limit myself on the computer for one hour a week to play video games so as not to take time away from JESUS.

I enjoyed my pets and liked to go on hikes and to play soccer with my friends or just hang out.

I became a Catechist. I created a Holiness kit based on my own prayer life and taught other youth about praying and visiting JESUS.

JESUS, being my Best Friend, was helping me to be more and more like Him, and I would go to weekly confession. Purity in my heart, my mind, and my body was important to me. I would share with my classmates about its importance.

I volunteered for different charitable organizations that served the homeless, the elderly and the poor. I always found JESUS with them.

Journalist: How did the Saints enter into your life?

Carlo: Truly, when I was little and visited JESUS in the various Churches, there were always statues or paintings of Saints. While growing up, I listened to the Scriptures in the Holy Mass and the homilies about the lives of the Saints. This is when they came alive for me. So I continued to learn and research about their lives and, then later, they became my friends and helped me in my mission.

In my research, I found one thing that the Saints had in common, other than their deep love for JESUS, and it was to strive to live in the present moment with JESUS.

Journalist: 'Living in the present moment with JESUS.' Can you explain a little more.

Carlo: Think of a carpenter's level. It has 3 bubbles and is used for exact balance.

Picture the middle bubble being 'the present moment'. As you hold the level, and tilt it to the left (which is the past) or if you tilt it to the right (which is the future), you will be 'out of balance.' So one always wants to live in the present moment with JESUS - then you will have balance in your life. A Priest said that the devil cannot live in the present moment with JESUS.

The devil can only tempt you to the past or to the future. This was so basic and helpful in following JESUS.

Journalist: I know that you have favorite Saints. Would you like to share about these Friends.

Carlo: My favorite was St. Francis of Assisi; who loved animals. I had dogs, cats and gold-fish.

St. Anthony. St. Dominic Savio, St. Bernadette and Saints Jacinta and Francisco were my friends.

They taught me about JESUS, too!

I enjoyed traveling with my family and visiting various Catholic Shrines, especially in Assisi, Lourdes and Portugal, and Churches with Eucharistic Miracles. The Saints of these Shrines became mentors for me.

GOD's Kingdom became more real to me!

However, when I read about St. Tarcisus as a Youth, who was martyred for carrying the Eucharist to Christian prisoners, I knew that I had to help bring JESUS to others.

Journalist: Was it then that your interest peaked in the computer and internet?

Carlo: Yes, I was 11 years old. I was inspired and began to concentrate my computer skills for GOD. I created a website for the Church and school. Then, later I began to organize the Eucharistic Miracles of the Vatican on a website; the first researched was the Miracle in the mid 750's in Lanciano, Italy. I wanted everyone to see how much JESUS loves us through the centuries and is alive today.

JESUS waits for us in every Catholic Church, His Very Home for us here on earth. I wanted everyone to visit Him and to receive Him in the Holy Eucharist, becoming His Tabernacle ~ His Temple on earth. "The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like JESUS - so that on this earth, we will have a foretaste of Heaven". He desires us to become a living monstrance, lifting Him high for everyone to see. JESUS said that 'the monstrance is His Cross and the Blessed Sacrament is His Eternal Love suspended.'

I felt like this mission of bringing JESUS' Love and Friendship to everyone would take a lifetime.

I sensed that I would not live that long, so I lived life to the fullest!

Journalist: So what happened next?

Carlo: I loved JESUS so much that when our hearts became One, it was no longer I who lived, but JESUS!

When you live in JESUS, your heart becomes His and it is He Who loves through you. Saints gave their lives and hearts to JESUS and so they became Him in the world.

There are many saintly youth that have followed JESUS - the Youth of today need to know that they are being called to be Saints, too.

The only way that others in the world will know JESUS and His Love is through His Friends and Disciples. JESUS is constantly inviting everyone to know Him - of every age - He calls us all in different ways. Many have turned away and have become lost. JESUS waits for us. And, here we are today with JESUS, Who loves us.

Journalist: JESUS, we know that we can find you in any Catholic Church and are with us in our lives. Just how does one draw closer to you, or to become One with You?

JESUS: Please close your eyes. Now slowly, take a deep breath and slowly exhale.

Now, as you take a breath
quietly call Me; JESUS; then exhale.
Again, Breathe in: JESUS; then exhale. Again, Breathe in: JESUS, then
exhale.
It's as simple as this. I Am Alive and I live in You. I wait in every
present moment for you.
Just be still. I am here.

When one receives Me in the Blessed Sacrament, one receives My Body, My
Blood, Soul and Divinity. And, you become My Temple, in which I dwell.

I always want you to know Me and My Peace. The devil can appear as an angel
of light; he can imitate my voice, but he can never replicate My Presence -
Peace.

Carlo: Peace. Peace. This is something that everyone wants. Many
of my family and friends want Peace. Others want Peace. I want the world
to know that Peace has a Name and a Face - JESUS.

Loving with JESUS' Heart and living His Merciful and Forgiving Love, we, his
disciples radiate His Light, Truth and Peace of the HOLY SPIRIT.

Journalist: How is it that you could give up your life to live with and in
JESUS?

Peace is very attractive and hope-filled!

Yet, it seems that the world in its darkness, does not know where to find
Peace and yet appears to seek it.

Carlo: Great question. Many ask this. You see, in a sense, we enter more
fully into the Kingdom of GOD.

When one gives to GOD ones life here in the world and everything,
with JESUS you receive the fullest of life forever - Heaven. So
you give up something for sometime, to receive everything - forever! So I
wanted every moment to point to JESUS.

JESUS can always be found! It's those who never seek JESUS, who seem not to
find Him.

Actually, JESUS is always seeking ~ He is the Good Shepherd....and there's
always someone praying for those who are in need of JESUS.

Journalist: Carlo, your mission was to make JESUS known and loved through
Eucharistic Miracles throughout the world, which reveals His True Presence

today. A 142-panel Exhibit of the Eucharistic Miracles based on your website has been displayed in five continents. It has been welcomed by thousands of parishes and hundreds of schools and universities throughout the world. Could you ever have envisioned this?

Carlo: 'Yes and No'. 'Yes,' by cataloging the Eucharistic Miracles and creating the website, I could bring to the world ~ JESUS, Who reveals His Love, Forgiveness, Mercy and Peace throughout the centuries to the young and old alike.

And, 'No', in a sense of what is still unfolding: there is now even a book with all the Eucharistic Miracles so beautifully adapted from the original website. Among other media, there are books, stories, videos, and the forming of Prayer and Youth Groups and Conferences...

It reminds me of JESUS' command in Matthew 28: 'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...'

JESUS' Eternal Love in the HOLY EUCHARIST is reaching the ends of the earth.

Now, JESUS today is asking you 'to deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow Him.' Help Him with the harvest!

The Harvest is Great! You were born for this!

I knew that my mission, especially to the Youth, was really just beginning and, like other Saints, would continue from Heaven.

Also, I understand that if you search my name, there are currently over 2500 websites among other media platforms.

PRAISE GOD!

I am praying that JESUS will be known and loved now and forever! My heart is over-flowing with Gratitude to the Blessed Trinity for such a privileged call to reveal to the world JESUS ~ in His Sacrificial Eternal Love and His ~ Our FATHER and the HOLY SPIRIT.

JESUS: At the designated time, It was necessary for Carlo to come 'home.' The seeds given him as that faithful farmer to sow and plant were sprouting and growing and bearing a 'harvest.' He was able to see a tiny moment of his life's love.

So in the hospital in 2006, Carlo was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia. When it was time for him to come 'home to Heaven', he accepted and prayed: 'I offer You, LORD, all the suffering that I will have to undergo for Pope (Benedict) and for the Church, so as not to undergo Purgatory and enter Heaven directly.'

Carlo received the Sacrament of the Sick with his mother and grandmother at

his side. His tender and faithful heart, who loved Me and My Mother, stopped at 6:45 am on October 12, 2006.

I'd like to share from the Gospel of My Beloved John, whom Carlo admired as the 'icon of life' ~ Chapter 6:45:

"It is written in the prophets:

'They will all be taught by GOD.'

Everyone who listens to My FATHER and learns from Him, comes to Me."

Carlo: Lastly, one more lesson for now, St. John Bosco taught me with his dream of 2 huge pillars, one on each side of a large ship being the Catholic Church tossed on a great sea. The tallest pillar held the Blessed Sacrament and the other held Our Lady, dressed in white holding the rosary.

The Blessed Sacrament and Our Blessed Mother will keep us as a safe refuge for these times of turbulence and uncertainty.

Remember to keep your eyes on JESUS and live each moment with Him.

We live in a finite body,

with a soul created for Heaven - infinity.

Infinity is our homeland. We are always expected in Heaven.

GOD in His Love gave my Mother and Father a set of twins, Francesca and Michele, born on October 12, 2010. So my birth date to Heaven is celebrated by the birth date of my sister and brother. Also, remember, in each moment with JESUS we are closer to Heaven than one can ever imagine. And, if we truly lived this truth, we would be so happy and give such Glory to GOD!

Journalist: Thank you, JESUS and Carlo, for giving us a beautiful glimpse of your Friendship and now this invitation to live in the mystery of Eternal Love, being drawn into GOD's Kingdom.

JESUS, You are inviting us to spend time with You in daily conversation and prayer, and through Holy Mother Church with Saint Joseph as our Patron of Families, to participate in the Holy Mass, Adoration, the Sacraments, the rosary with Our Blessed Mother, being coached by our Holy Angels and Saints, listening to You and the HOLY SPIRIT to do the FATHER's Will in Love and Mercy.

Journalist: Thank You so much , JESUS and Blessed Carlo for this time. JESUS, we want to be Best Friends, too. Please help us.

JESUS: Just come to Me in prayer in your heart, in your room - and you'll always find me in a Catholic Church! I'm always waiting, too, in every present moment!

Journalist: Blessed Carlo, intercede for us as we join our hearts in your mission to

live and share "the Eucharist is our highway to Heaven."

JESUS, would you bless us?

JESUS: With the sign of our Faith ~ The Sign of the Cross we pray:

The LORD bless you and keep

you.

The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!

Amen!

submitted by a spiritual cheerleader of Blessed Carlo Acutis