Clergy News from Bishop Colli's Office

October 11, 2020

Blessed Carlo Acutis

On October 10, 2020, in Assisi, Carlo Acutis, a 15 year old young man was beatified. Carlo Acutis was born May 3, 1991, in London, where his parents were working. Just a few months later, his parents, Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano, moved to Milan. As a teenager, Carlo was diagnosed with leukemia. He offered his sufferings for Pope Benedict XVI and for the Church, saying "I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church." He died on Oct. 12, 2006, and was buried in Assisi, at his request, because of his love for St. Francis of Assisi.

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.

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 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. He was a gamer and computer programmer who loved soccer and the Eucharist. 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."

Here is a young man, who loved sports, loved computers, was a programmer, he loved Jesus and the Eucharist. He is a witness of faith for all young people. More about his life and his beatification can be found on YouTube. May young people everywhere, be inspired by this young man, now a saint in our Church.

+ Fred J. Colli
Bishop of Thunder Bay