



My Dear Parishioners,

Praise Be Jesus Christ! Last week, as we flew high with the Eagles, I shared with you an article about a soon-to-be canonized Saint, Pier Giorgio Frassati whose canonization is set for August. His motto was **“To the Heights!”**. This week, as we march into March, I share another soon-to-be canonized Saint, Carlo Acutis. His life may be more familiar to you; he’s the first saint of the millennial generation. His parents are still living and his witness to the Eucharist is so beautiful. In a world where true beauty is often missed, consider the life of 15 year old Carlo. His life on earth converted his family and friends; May his life in heaven assist in our conversion – as we turn away from sin and toward Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

Acutis, an Italian computer-coding teenager who died of cancer in 2006, is known for his great devotion to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Born in 1991, Acutis is the first millennial to be beatified by the Catholic Church. Shortly after his first Communion at the age of 7, Acutis told his mother: **“To always be united to Jesus: This is my life plan.”**

To accomplish this, Acutis sought to attend daily Mass as often as he could at the parish church across the street from his elementary school in Milan. Acutis called the Eucharist “my highway to heaven,” and he did all in his power to make this presence known. His witness inspired his own parents to return to practicing the Catholic faith and his Hindu au pair to convert and be baptized.

Acutis was a tech-savvy kid who loved computers, animals, and video games. His spiritual director has recalled that Acutis was convinced that the evidence of Eucharistic miracles could be persuasive in helping people to realize that Jesus is present at every Mass.

Over the course of two and a half years, Acutis worked with his family to put together an exhibition on Eucharistic miracles that premiered in 2005 during the Year of the Eucharist proclaimed by Pope John Paul II and has since gone on to be displayed at thousands of parishes on five continents.

Many of Acutis’ classmates, friends, and family members have testified how he brought them closer to God. Acutis was a very open person and was not shy about speaking with his classmates and anyone he met about the things he loved: the Mass, the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and heaven.

He is remembered for saying: **“People who place themselves before the sun get a tan; people who place themselves before the Eucharist become saints.”** Acutis died at the age of 15 in 2006, shortly after being diagnosed with leukemia. Before he died, Acutis told his mother: **“I offer all of my suffering to the Lord for the pope and for the Church in order not to go to purgatory but to go straight to heaven.”** Thousands of people visited Acutis’ tomb in Assisi following his beatification in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 10, 2020. He will be canonized a Saint on April 27, 2025.

An Invitation from Archbishop Pérez

Learn more about a new way forward together for the Catholic Church of Philadelphia

ST. PATRICK PARISH INFORMATION SESSION

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Your voice and presence are essential as we plan a new way forward!

Archbishop Perez published an important Pastoral Letter on January 5th. This letter outlines his hopes for the Church of Philadelphia over the coming years. He invites each of us to read and reflect upon this letter and to participate in a conversation about it. His letter can be found at www.trustandhope.org.

On Sunday, March 23rd, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, in the St. Joseph Room, St. Patrick Church will host an information session for our parish community on the pastoral planning for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

We would like as much of our St. Patrick community in attendance as possible. **To help us plan accordingly, please register for this event using the QR code found below, visit the parish website, or please email Jen Keller at jenkellersp@gmail.com.**



If you cannot attend our parish session, you are invited and encouraged to attend one of the Archdiocesan sessions being offered throughout Chester County. To sign up for an Archdiocesan session, please visit www.trustandhope.org.