



From Deacon Mark Miller's Desk

Last October, Pope Francis beatified Carlo Acutis, the 15-year-old who used the web and social media so effectively in sharing the Gospel. The website he created is considered the best source of reliable information on Eucharistic miracles. Now, the first stained glass window inspired by Blessed Acutis has been revealed at the church of San Giuseppe in Molfetta, Italy.

Bishop Domenico Cornacchia commissioned an unusual window for the 15-year-old that demonstrates that the timeless traits of holiness are closer to us than we might think. Created using the traditional mouth-blown glass technique, an Italian artist, Maria Bonaduce's finished piece, features unique images and color combinations – appropriate for the first “blessed” millennial.

“**On the way to school**, he would stop to chat with people about their problems, she said. He took meals and sleeping bags to homeless people and knew many by name.



The window depicts a 15-year-old Carlo walking in jeans and sneakers with yellow shoestrings, a red windbreaker adorned with the logo of one of his favorite sports teams, and carrying a backpack over his right shoulder. A computer peaks out from the open backpack. He could be any teenager. Carlo attended high school with his friends, played *football* [soccer], and video games – especially Mario Kart and Pokémon. The images in the window go much further than just showing an average teen, though. The first thing one notices is his distinctive smile and an expression that radiates joy. He walks on a curved path that symbolizes the hardships he endured as he suffered from – and ultimately died at 15 from – acute leukemia. His path is lit by the Eucharist [designated by the traditional Italian “JHS”] placed in the middle of bright sun-like

rays. Next to the path is rich brown soil with bright green plants that symbolize the planting of the seed of God's word and the fruitful harvest it brings. Carlo is remembered as “God's influencer”; he used the internet and social media sites to share the Good News.

He put his faith in action through his work helping the poor, older, disabled people, and refugees. His mother explained, “On the way to school, he would stop to chat with people about their problems, she said. He took meals and sleeping bags to homeless people and knew many by name.”

The unique window reminds other young people of Carlo’s belief that “happiness is looking towards God and sadness is looking only towards oneself.” He also asked, “Why do people care so much about the beauty of their body and don’t care about the beauty of their soul? A life is truly beautiful only if we come to love God above all else and our neighbor as ourselves.”

Perhaps his most familiar statement is, “All people are born as originals, but many die as photocopies.”

Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us.