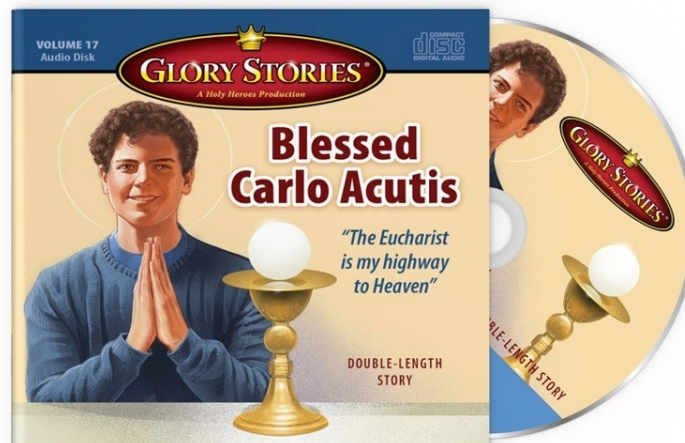




Blessed Carlo Acutis
*"The Eucharist is my Highway to
Heaven"*

EDUCATION GUIDE FOR PARENTS



Thank you for purchasing our Glory Story on Blessed Carlo Acutis!

We hope you enjoy listening to this audio drama as much as we had fun creating it!

Like many parents or teachers, you may be wondering how best to use your newly-acquired audio drama. Never fear!

Here are **7 ideas** on how to use your new Blessed Carlo Acutis Glory Story:

1. During Car Rides or Road Trips

“We love learning about saints, and my children ask me to play the glory stories over and over in the car!! They never get tired of hearing the stories!!” – Joanna

Play the Glory Story while driving to your next field trip or event! Kids will stay interested in the story and characters (instead of the next pit-stop!)

2. In the Classroom

“It is great reinforcement for any reading you are doing on the Saints.” – Mom of 5 from Albuquerque, NM

Supplement your CCD or religious education classes with Glory Stories! Play small sections of the Glory Story each class and pose a discussion question. Our suggested questions on page 3 will aid you in lesson planning!

3. Celebrating Feast Days

“When your grandson calls you and is jumping up and down with joy over a gift you know you found the perfect item” – Diane from San Diego, CA

Use the Glory Story as part of your feast day celebrations! Mark October 10 (the day he was beatified) in your calendar, and plan a day dedicated to his story! Play the Glory Story, print some coloring pages, and have kids make a cool craft!

4. Gifts for Birthdays or Receiving Sacraments

“I love all the Glory Stories, but this is definitely one of my faves! What a perfect First Holy Communion present!” – Holly from Aberdeen, NC

Know someone named Carlo? Is your child or grandchild receiving First Holy Communion soon? What better gift than a Glory Story to both further their religious education and let them know they are loved!

5. Parenting Tools

“Our whole family enjoys listening to the lovingly written & read stories. A great way to help us think like saints.” – Michelle from Larkspur, CO

Use the Glory Story to bring up important and relevant topics with your kids. Listening to the story can help start conversations about treating others with respect, telling the truth, and other virtues!

6. Donations to Parish or School Community

“I can't say enough on how great these CDs teach and entertain.” – Jennifer from Quincy, IL

Know people in your parish community who could use a Glory Story or two? Donate a copy to your parish library, Catholic school, or daycare!

7. Afternoon Down-Time or Bedtime

“A great way to use what would be wasted time; now we use it learning about God. Thank you!” – Homeschool Mom

Give momma a well-deserved break! Entertain the kids without having to turn on the TV! Kids will exercise their imagination, creativity, and listening skills while learning about their faith...it's a win-win! Or, pop in a Glory Story Audio Drama before bedtime to help kids wind down from the day.

[Collect the entire set!](http://www.holyheroes.com) Visit www.holyheroes.com today!

Discussion Questions

Not sure how to talk about the story with your kids? We've created a list of discussion questions for you! Of course, feel free to adapt or omit these questions based on your child's age, maturity, interests, attention span, etc.

Note: Blessed Carlo Acutis' Glory Story is a "double-length story," which means it runs about 50 minutes long, and does not pair with another saint's life (like many of our other Glory Stories).

1. When Carlo was learning to read, what book did he want? *A children's bible*
2. What saint did Carlo want to be like? *St. Francis of Assisi*
3. What is so special about the Eucharist and why did Carlo want to receive it so early?
Various answers possible...consuming the Eucharist makes us more like Jesus, we are the closest to Him we can be while on earth, etc.
4. How many dogs did young Carlo have? *4...plus cats!*
5. How did Carlo and Flavia spend their vacations? *They made films about Carlo's pet dogs.*
6. Who taught Carlo computer programming? *He taught himself by reading university-level textbooks!*
7. What did Carlo start designing when he was 11, and how long did it take him? *A website about Eucharistic miracles...it took him 4 years to finish!*
8. Who did Carlo always say hello to at school? *The school doormen and janitors*
9. What exciting thing happened as a result of his website? *It was turned into an exhibit that was shown at a nearby parish and at the Vatican!*
10. Did Carlo include his name on his website? Why or why not? *He did not...he wanted to put all the focus on Jesus, not himself!*
11. What did Carlo do every day? *Daily Rosary, Mass, and prayer before the Eucharist*
12. Who did Carlo offer his sufferings up for when he had leukemia? *The souls in Purgatory*

Definitions to Know

Is your child struggling with an unfamiliar word or phrase? Here are a few of the harder terms to understand or pronounce (and suggested ways to explain them)!

- **Assisi** - the town in Italy where St. Francis lived and preached...Carlo is buried there too
- **Java / C++** - programming languages, or ways to tell a computer what to do
- **Leukemia** - a cancer that attacks the blood and bones

Activity Ideas

Help your kids retain the Glory Story through a fun activity! We recommend brainstorming some simple but fun ways your family or class can practice Blessed Carlo's virtues.

Here are a few of our own! As always, adapt or create a project that is perfect for your family or classroom!

Learn about time management by creating a daily schedule!

Blessed Carlo knew the importance of prioritizing his day. We should be using as much time as possible to serve God and others!

To start, focus on creating a solid morning routine. There are lots of free templates out there, or you can write it in your [Holy Heroes Spiritual Journal](#). Younger kids can jot down things like brushing their teeth, making their bed, saying morning prayers, etc.

Older kids can get more detailed by writing a goal that they want to accomplish at the top of their schedule (getting better at a musical instrument, getting stronger, etc). How will structuring their day better help them achieve that goal? By setting aside a little bit of time each day, we can accomplish anything we set our minds to!

Make a video skit like Carlo liked to do!

Blessed Carlo lived a very similar life to kids today...he played sports, watched cartoons, and played games with his cousins. Let kids get creative by making their own video skit!

Encourage them to write their own story (this is a great English tie-in if you homeschool). Who is the hero? Who is the villain? What problem is the hero trying to solve? What is the climax of the story?

Kids can use anything available in the house or backyard...let them use their imagination! Older kids can help direct and edit the final video. Once it's complete, have a viewing party for the parents (don't forget the popcorn)!

Take steps to use technology for God!

Technology is all around us, and just like anything else, we need to learn how to use it for the greater glory of God. The internet has the potential to be used for scary things, but can also be used as a tool to help evangelize the world (just like Carlo did with his website)!

As a parent, you can write a personalized "contract" for your children that outlines rules for using the computer, phone, tablet, gaming console, etc. Include details such as:

- Time limits
- Rules regarding when friends are visiting (or when they are at a friend's house)
- Sites that are ok to visit
- Etiquette when talking with people online
- A list of good things the internet can be used for
- Anything else that applies to your family

Strongly consider installing an [internet filter](#) like [Covenant Eyes](#) as well. Finally, be sure to include the consequences for breaking this contract. Talk it over with your kids, and say a prayer to Blessed Carlo before signing it together

Help start the discussion about internet safety with [Good Pictures, Bad Pictures](#). It features easy-to-understand science and simple analogies, and gives kids 5 clear steps on what to do if they encounter something bad online. [Good Pictures, Bad Pictures also comes in a junior edition](#) for ages 3-6. Using gentle, age-appropriate messages, children will learn what to do and how to tell their parents.

Identify what makes you unique in God's eyes!

Blessed Carlo wanted everyone to become the person God created them to be. We are not called to be just like everyone else...we are called to be saints!

If you have a printer in your home, try this activity. Take a picture of your family and have the kids study it. How clear is the image? Can you see everyone's smiles? What other details do they see? Then, place the photo in the printer and print a copy onto a sheet of paper. How clear does the image appear now? Then, photocopy the photocopy, and so on. Soon, the image will be unrecognizable! When we try to "fit in" with others or change ourselves for other people, we cover up the beauty that is already inside of us!

Here's another idea: have your kids draw names of their siblings or classmates out of a hat. For the person that they get, they must write a list of 5 things that are beautiful or unique about that person. It could be a talent, a virtue, something they love about that person, or a strength! Then, have them share with the group. We are called to lift each other up as we strive to become saints!

Pope Francis Speaks about Blessed Carlo Acutis

From *Christus Vivit*, 104-107

(March 25, 2019)

“It is true that **the digital world can expose you to the risk of self-absorption, isolation and empty pleasure**. But don’t forget that there are young people even there who show creativity and even genius. That was the case with...Carlo Acutis.

Carlo was well aware that the whole apparatus of communications, advertising and social networking can be used to lull us, to make us addicted to consumerism and buying the latest thing on the market, obsessed with our free time, caught up in negativity. **Yet he knew how to use the new communications technology to transmit the Gospel, to communicate values and beauty.**

Carlo didn’t fall into the trap. He saw that many young people, wanting to be different, really end up being like everyone else, running after whatever the powerful set before them with the mechanisms of consumerism and distraction. In this way they do not bring forth the gifts the Lord has given them; they do not offer the world those unique personal talents that God has given to each of them. **As a result, Carlo said, “everyone is born as an original, but many people end up dying as photocopies”. Don’t let that happen to you!**

Don’t let them rob you of hope and joy, or drug you into becoming a slave to their interests. Dare to be more, because who you are is more important than any possession. What good are possessions or appearances? **You can become what God your Creator knows you are, if only you realize that you are called to something greater.** Ask the help of the Holy Spirit and confidently aim for the great goal of holiness.

In this way, you will not be a photocopy. You will be fully yourself.”

Additional Resources

Need more ideas? Check out these cool books, websites, and more!

Books:

[Raising Chaste Catholic Men - Leia Miller](#)

[Raising Upright Kids in an Upside Down World - Dr. Ray Guarendi](#)

[A Little Catholic's First Rosary Book \(Bead by Bead\)](#)

[Read-Aloud Book of Bible Stories - Amy Steedman](#)

[The Picture Bible - Iva Hoth and David C. Cook](#)

Movies / Audio CDs:

[Video of Carlo Acutis' Beatification Mass](#) (originally in Italian, with live English translation)

[The Holy Rosary: Complete CD Set](#)

[St. Jose Sanchez del Rio Glory Story](#) (another courageous young man...he lived almost 100 years earlier but died around the same age as Carlo!)

Websites / Pilgrimage*:

**We've provided links to virtual tours when available! If the church doesn't have a website, we've tried to link a website with good photos to show kids (or you can search on Google!)*

[Carlo Acutis' Website](#) (you and your kids can spend HOURS on here!)

[Official Website of the Carlo Acutis Association and Cause for Canonization](#) (some good biographical information here)

[Basilica of San Francesco of Assisi](#) (Carlo's favorite saint, and where he was beatified!)

[The Story behind Carlo Acutis' First Miracle](#)

This Glory Story pairs well with these Holy Heroes Products!

[Holy Heroes Spiritual Journal](#)

[Holy Heroes Playing Cards](#)

[A Parent Who Prays - Katie Warner](#)

[How to Make a Holy Hour Pamphlet](#)