

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

Apostolate

DIOCESAN
YOUTH MINISTRY
OUTREACH

**DIOCESE
OF
SALT LAKE CITY UTAH**



BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS APOSTOLATE MISSION:



The Blessed Carlo Acutis Apostolate is a Diocesan Youth Outreach designed to help youth ages 13 – 18 experience and fall in love with the true presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit and in the Eucharist. As the Holy Father, Pope Francis addresses the Youth in *Christus Vivit*, He says: “Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!”

We believe that this objective alone, once fulfilled, will help expose, curtail and even defeat and drive away the many evil spirits and influences that youth deal with today that lead to addictions, low self-esteem, feeling of unworthiness, rejection and suicide itself... all of which are currently scourging youth across the Diocese of Utah. In *Christus Vivit* p.15; The word of God says that young people should be treated “as brothers” (1 Tim 5:1), and warns parents not to “provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.” (Col 3:21). Young people are not meant to become discouraged; they are meant to dream great things, to seek horizons, to aim higher, to the building of something better. The Holy Father states, “I constantly urge young people not to let themselves be robbed of hope; to each of them I repeat: “Let no one despise your youth.” (1 Tim 4:12).

Educating the youth of the Diocese will focus on the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, as so beautifully demonstrated by the way in which Blessed Carlo Acutis’ devotion to the Eucharist, the manner in which he led his life, and his amazing work of cataloging over 130 Eucharistic Miracles by creating a website for all to use and learn from will be our focus.

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November 27, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings of Peace and Love! As we celebrate Thanksgiving Day this year, we count an added blessing from our loving God to our local church in Utah. Through the initiative of Fr. Gustavo Vidal, Pastor of St. Rose of Lima in Layton, our Diocese was able to acquire a First Degree Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis from the Bishop of the Diocese of Assisi-Nocera, Italy. I had the distinct honor to bring home this precious relic from Rome last month and personally handed it to him.

Blessed Carlo Acutis was born in London from wealthy parents, raised in Milan by not particularly religious family but grew up like a normal Catholic, received his First Communion at age seven, developed a great love for the Holy Eucharist as the center of his life. He used his knowledge of computer to learn about the Eucharistic miracles around the world and shared this with others to promote devotion to the Holy Mass. Before his death, he went to Mass and received Holy Communion daily. He got sick with leukemia, died at the age of 15 in 2006 and was buried in Assisi, Italy. Carlo Acutis was beatified by Pope Francis in 2020.

The relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis is a great blessing to the Church, especially to the youth throughout the Diocese. His life on earth was short yet meaningful marked by deep faith in God, holiness, Christian virtues, devotion to the Holy Rosary and tremendous love of the Holy Eucharist. "He lived with Jesus, for Jesus and in Jesus," a beautiful source of inspiration for us and a great example to emulate, to follow and to imitate. His last words were: *"I am happy to die because I lived my life without wasting even a minute of it in anything displeasing to God."*

The Blessed Carlo Acutis Apostolate is our pastoral outreach to foster personal relationship with Christ through prayer, knowledge of the Word of God and the Teachings our Church, retreat, and prayer rally, and most of all, a special devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Please promote it in all our parish communities and provide a safe place for the youth and young adults where they can encounter the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and help them face challenges and struggles in their daily life.

I extend my blessing to this special apostolate as well as our gratitude to Fr. Vidal for his leadership of this ministry to the youth and the support of his group of volunteers. May our Good Lord bring what you have begun to fruition.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ 
Most Reverend Oscar A. Solis, D.D.
Bishop of Salt Lake City

Diocesan Director



In conjunction with the USCCB Eucharistic Renewal, the Diocese of Salt Lake City, under the direction of Bishop Oscar Solis, The Blessed Carlo Acutis Apostolate has been organized and is overseen by Diocesan Director and Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Reverend Gustavo Vidal.

November 29, 2023

Dear Youth Impacting Leaders,

As you may have read in the Intermountain Catholic, the Diocese of Salt Lake City has acquired a relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis, which is so exciting, as we have also begun an Apostolate under his patronage. This Apostolate is geared towards all youth in our Diocese, aiding in their love, growth, and understanding of God. There is no better mentor/guide/leader for young people than a young person like themselves.

As far back as the Old Testament, God was calling upon young people for great works: Transforming societies by bringing God to the communities, Bringing about crucial change to the lives of many, and Demonstrating to adults and children alike what can be accomplished with faith in God. Truly, all of the great works were simply because they had responded to God's call. A great example of God working through young people is when he called Jeremiah, despite his youth, to rouse his people. Jeremiah replied to God "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth" (Jeremiah 1:6).

We also see God working in young people when we look at the life of Jesus, His son. When Jesus was baptized, He was entrusted with a great mission, assigned specifically to Him by his Father. "You are my beloved Son" (Luke 3:22). Pope Francis explains further, as documented in the *Christus Vivit* "Every young person who feels called to a mission in this world is invited to hear the Father speaking those same words within his or her heart: "You are my beloved child". A modern-day example of a young person answering God's mission is Blessed Carlo Acutis. Carlo died at a young age - only 15 years old - of leukemia. However, during his short time on earth, he proved that you can be a 'cool kid' - he was into gaming and programming websites - and still have an extremely strong love for God. It's imperative for young people to gain a relationship with God like Carlo did, knowing that God is with them in all instances of their life, providing love and friendship, regardless of their situation.

We believe that this Apostolate will help expose, curtail, and even defeat the many evil spirits and influences that youth deal with today. This Apostolate is geared to aid the youth in fighting or overcoming the drowning sensations of addiction, low self-esteem, feelings of unworthiness, rejection, and suicide itself. As Carlo has quoted "To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan". In the following pages, you will find more information about the Blessed Carlo Acutis Apostolate. Please read through this information and reach out to me if you have questions. Bringing our youth into a deep relationship with God, therefore diminishing suicide amongst our youth, is the end result we are all praying for. I leave you with the following from Pope Francis, as written in the Post-Synodal Exhortation to Young People and to the Entire People of God, paragraphs 104 - 106: *104. I remind you of the good news we received as a gift on the morning of the resurrection: that in all the dark or painful situations that we mentioned, there is a way out. For example, 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 the Venerable Carlo Acutis. 105. 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. 106. 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!*

Please watch for all future events throughout our Diocese and encourage participation.

Sincerely,
Father Gustavo Vidal
Pastor of St. Rose of Lima

Leadership & Committee Members:

Diocesan Director: Reverend Gustavo Vidal
Co-Chair: Michael Edwards
Spanish Co-Chair: Luis Garcia
Music Director: Chris San Nicolas / Co-Director: Alejandro Edwards
Committee: Chris and Deanna Keller
Bob Shafer
Scott & Makenzie Anthony
Ethan Shields
Hilda Garcia

Programs / Events:

The plan of action will include, but is not limited to, traveling from Parish to Parish throughout the Diocese hosting Mini-Rallies. These Mini-Rallies include, Mass, Adoration, Presentation on Blessed Carlo Acutis (different presentations), Music from the BCAA Contemporary Choir (based on the Eucharist), and an inspirational talk on the Eucharist, life, and being “Sent” as Disciples by Fr. Vidal. Also creating a permanent place for the exposition of the 1st Class Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis as well as a pilgrimage site for youth to come and experience Blessed Carlo Acutis at Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Layton Utah. This will include expanding to other inspirational teen Saints, St Maria Goretti and Jose Sanchez Del Rio with displays for each of the Saints explaining their lives and sainthood.

Parish Requirements:

Large enough space for 50-100 youth, use of Sanctuary and vessels et al (can provided by Apostolate Team if needed) required for Eucharistic Celebrations, Mini rallies are 6 hours on a Saturday (typically from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm with and hour on each side for setup, late registration, and clean up. Hosting Parish is asked to provide snacks and drinks during breaks.

Youth Participants:

- Youth ages 13-18
- Preregistration Online
- Complete Diocese Consent Form
- Desire to learn

Safety:

Safety and security are of most importance with the Blessed Carlo Acutis Apostolate. All Volunteers, youth, and adults, all possess certification of Safe Environment training ensuring that youth have a safe place to worship and provide fellowship.

Become a Member / Volunteer

The “Blessed Carlo Acutis Apostolate” is always seeking and welcoming new members and volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a committee member or volunteer, you can speak with any of the team members and express your interests. There are a few ways to become a part of the team, speaking with a team member or completing a registration form online.



BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

Carlo Acutis was an English-born Italian catholic youth and amateur computer programmer, who is best known for documenting Eucharistic Miracles around the world and cataloging them onto a website which he created before his death from leukemia. He was noted for his cheerfulness, computer skills, and deep devotion to the Eucharist, which became a core theme of his life. He was beatified on October 10, 2020.

Devotion to Saints:

He is said to have had several models as guides for his life, especially Francis of Assisi, as well as Francisco and Jacinta Marto, Dominic Savio, Tarcisius, Bernadette Soubirous, and Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi. He would often visit church alone. He would frequently pray to his guardian angel and had a special devotion to St. Michael the Archangel

BLESSED CARLO
ACUTIS

CATALOG OF
EUCHARISTIC
MIRACLES

ENJOYED PLAYING
VIDEO GAMES

LOVED TO GO TO
CHURCH, PRAY, AND
LEARN MORE ABOUT
HIS FAITH

STOOD UP TO
BULLIES IN SCHOOL
FOR DISABLED
CLASSMATES

*"The Eucharist; Is My
Highway to Heaven"*

Blessed Carlo Acutis



FIRST-CLASS RELIC

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS



The Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis is exposed for veneration with each mini rally.



YOUTH MASS BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS APOSTOLATE

Diocesan Director Fr. Gustavo Vidal

Fr. Gustavo Vidal celebrating mass with the youth of the Diocese of Salt Lake City – Movement of “Blessed Carlo Acutis Apostolate” The youth, have an experience of encountering Christ in the Eucharist. Each youth rally, Mass is celebrated with the youth and parish leaders.

Word of God

Holy Eucharist

Offering

Praise

**BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS
APOSTOLATE**



Eucharistic Miracle Displays

At each Youth Rally a Display of the Eucharistic Miracles catalogued by Blessed Carlo Acutis is displayed for youth to review, discuss and are catechized in the miracles.

The photos listed below are a few that are displayed. A presentation is provided on the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis and his mission in cataloging the Eucharistic Miracles.



Blessed Carlo Acutis

Eucharistic Miracle Display Overview

Displays: Displays are erected at every event. This gives youth the opportunity to review the Eucharistic Miracles that have taken place all over the world. The youth are encouraged to review each display and discuss among their respective tables. A presentation is then presented and a discussion with team leaders and tables is conducted.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Adoration is the first attitude of man acknowledging that he is a creature before his Creator. It exalts the greatness of the Lord who made us and the almighty power of the Savior who sets us free from evil. Adoration is homage of the spirit to the “King of Glory,” respectful silence in the presence of the “ever greater” God. Adoration is the thrice-holy and sovereign God of love blends with humility and gives assurance to our supplications. (CCC 2628)

HOLY EUCHARIST

WORSHIP AND
ADORATION OF
PRAISE

FAITH AND
RELATIONSHIP WITH
GOD

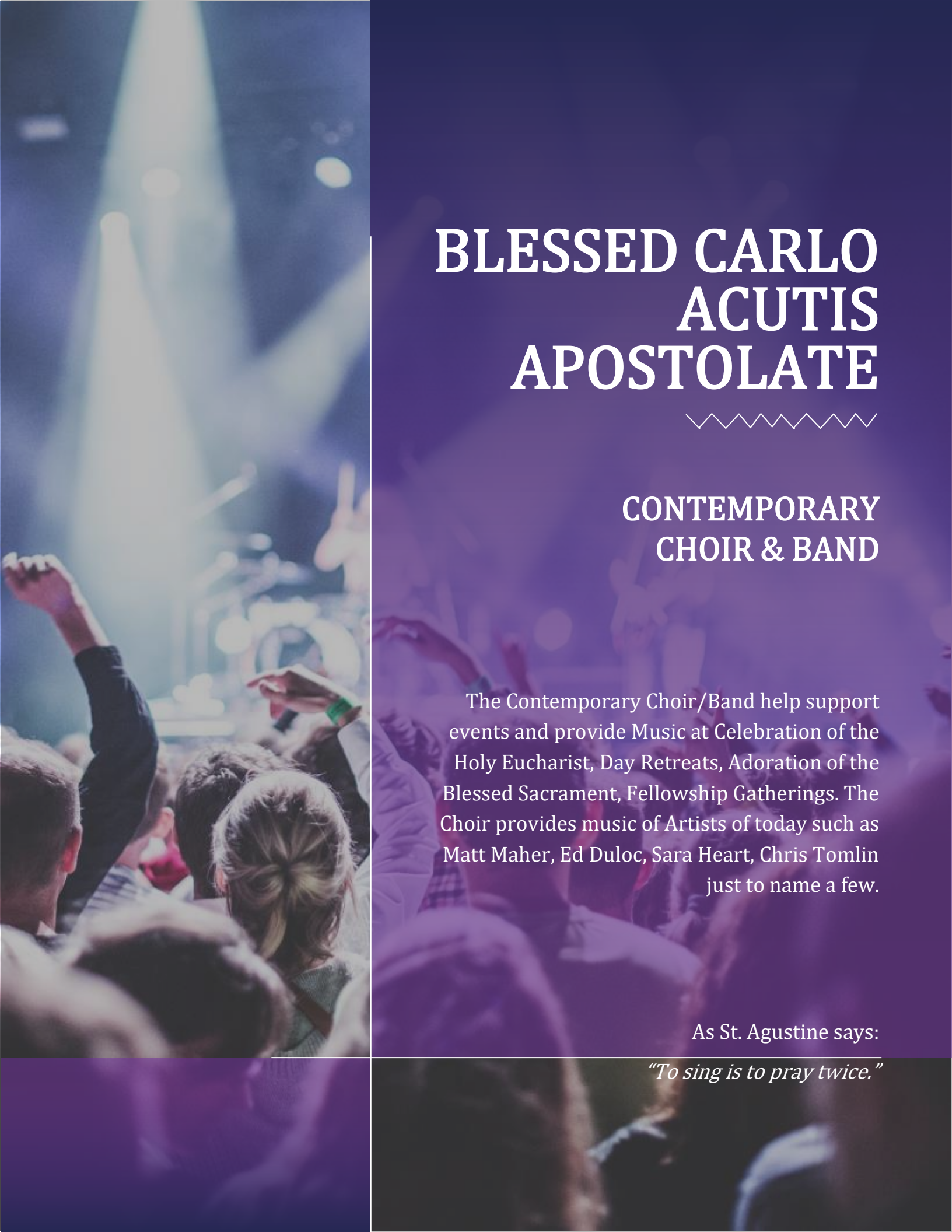
WORD OF GOD

ENCOUNTERING
JESUS IN THE REAL
PRESENCE

**CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF SALT LAKE CITY**

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BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS APOSTOLATE



CONTEMPORARY CHOIR & BAND

The Contemporary Choir/Band help support events and provide Music at Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Day Retreats, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Fellowship Gatherings. The Choir provides music of Artists of today such as Matt Maher, Ed Duloc, Sara Heart, Chris Tomlin just to name a few.

As St. Augustine says:

"To sing is to pray twice."