

Italian teenager, Carlo Acutis, to become first millennial saint on 7 September 2025

Pope Leo XIV has announced the canonization of Carlo Acutis, the Catholic Church's first millennial saint, originally scheduled for April 27, but was postponed following the death of Pope Francis on April 21, will take place on 7 September.

Acutis was 15 when he died in northern Italy in 2006, after a short bout with leukemia. Nicknamed "God's influencer," he has become enormously popular especially among young Catholics who have been flocking to his tomb in Assisi, and most especially during the 2025 Jubilee Year. His canonization by Pope Leo in St Peter's Square is expected to be attended by thousands of young people.

While Carlo enjoyed regular pastimes for his age – hiking, video games and being around friends – he was also known for his joyful faith and compassion for others and his devotion to the Eucharist. He taught himself basic coding languages in order to build websites to spread his faith. By creating an online exhibition that documented Eucharistic miracles his goal was to help people understand that the Eucharist contained the real presence of Jesus.

The Vatican requires that the church confirm two miracles attributed to the candidate's intercession in order to proceed with canonization. The first alleged miracle occurred in 2013 in Brazil and concerned a young boy afflicted with a grave pancreatic disorder who got better after praying to Acutis. The second alleged miracle concerned the medically inexplicable healing of a 21-year-old-girl from Costa Rica who suffered a severe head injury when she fell from a bike in Florence in 2022.

In setting the date of 7 September Pope Leo announced Acutis would be canonized along with another Italian Catholic, Pier Giorgio Frassati, who also died young at the age of 24 in 1925 after contracting polio.

The British-born Italian teenager, who loved video-gaming, is often depicted wearing jeans and trainers, making him a relatable figure to a new generation of Catholics and has been dubbed as the saint of the internet.

