October 12th: Memorial of Saint Carlo Acutis

Gospel text (*Mt* 5:13-16): Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

"Your light must shine before others"

Fr. Pablo CASAS Aljama
(Sevilla, Spain)

Today we celebrate St. Carlo Acutis, known as the "cyber-apostle" of the Eucharist. He was a young man who realized very early on that true happiness can only be found in God. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day" (Jn 6:54). With a faith both simple and profound, Carlo discovered in the Eucharist what he himself liked to call his "highway to heaven." He didn't stop at simply attending Mass; he spent long hours in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, convinced that the fountain of every holiness flows from the tabernacle.

His passion for technology was placed at the service of the Gospel—he became "salt of the earth" by creating a digital exhibition on Eucharistic miracles that continues to touch hearts around the world. Yet his love for Christ was inseparable from his love for the Blessed Virgin Mary. Each day he made time to pray the Rosary, convinced that this prayer was the safest road to heaven. For him, the Rosary was like a "spiritual GPS," guiding him in friendship with God and giving him strength to live out charity in the ordinary circumstances of daily life. Carlo knew well that anyone who entrusts himself to the Mother will never lose his way.

In harmony with this experience, Pope Leo XIV reminded us that the Rosary is not only a Marian devotion but also a profoundly Christ-centered path, because it "contains within itself the depth of the entire Gospel message." This truth shines through in Carlo's life: he never saw the Rosary as a mechanical repetition, but as a true encounter with Jesus through the eyes and the heart of His Mother.

The witness of St. Carlo Acutis is both timely and challenging. In the midst of our digital culture, he invites us to place technology at the service of what is good, to rediscover the centrality of the Eucharist, and to let ourselves be guided by Mary on the path to holiness: "Just so, your light must shine before others" (Mt 5:16).

Thoughts on Today's Gospel

- “I am happy to die because I lived my life without wasting even a minute of it on anything unpleasing to God” (Saint Carlo Acutis)

- “Today we find ourselves in a new culture, deeply characterized and formed by technology. It is up to us – it is up to each one of you – to ensure that this culture remains human.” (Leo XIV)

- “From this loving knowledge of Christ springs the desire to proclaim him, to "evangelize", and to lead others to the "yes" of faith in Jesus Christ. But at the same time the need to know this faith better makes itself felt.” (Catechism Of The Catholic Church, N 429)

Other comments

“The light of the world”

Fr. Antoni CAROL i Hostench
(Sant Cugat del Vallès, Barcelona, Spain)

Today we celebrate the “saint of globalization”: Carlo Acutis. Much suspicion surrounds the idea of “globalization,” yet in itself it is a tremendous opportunity for Christians. The first true “globalizer” was Jesus Christ: with His “mandatum novum” of charity, with the universal apostolic mission, and with the perpetual institution of the Eucharist.

Consider the scope of the greatest commandment: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:39). And who is my neighbor? Any person who is “near” me—whoever they may be, wherever they may be. Moreover, this commandment—already known in the Old Testament—was transformed when the Lord gave us the true measure of love: “As I have loved you” (Jn 13:34).

Christ also “sends” us to be “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world”: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:15). The Apostles and the first Christians did what they could in their time—on foot, by horse, or by ship.

Twenty-one centuries later, a millennial apostle—our own St. Carlo Acutis—took up the Lord’s command with two powerful means: the internet and the Eucharist. In truth, the Eucharist is the “first internet” of history. Yes, before the internet became widespread, there already existed the great network of love flowing from the pierced Heart of Christ: the Eucharist. Carlo was in love with the Eucharist. And because he shared the desires of the Heart of Jesus, he used the internet to spread Eucharistic devotion. That is why Carlo is known as the “millennial cyber-apostle.”

Today, the Word of God spreads at the speed of light—literally! Love knows no limits, neither of space nor of time; it is all about horizons—horizons as vast as the Heart of Christ. And another hallmark of love's speed is to go first. Mary, as soon as she heard the news, was the first to set out—she went quickly to the house of Zechariah to help St. Elizabeth. And so, you too can "go first"—always with prayer—and yes, often through the internet.