

COME RIGHT IN! MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!

A—He was born into a wealthy Italian family; rich in money but poor in faith.

1—Despite being non-practicing Catholics, his parents had him baptized.

2—As he grew, he showed great skill at computer science. One of his heroes was Steve Jobs. He enjoyed sports and video games, loved animals, played the saxophone and traveled.

3—Yet at the same time, from his very earliest years, he developed a very strong faith life that he didn't get from his parents.

4—While some parents make their children go to Mass, he started to make his parents go to Mass and soon he was attending daily Mass.

5—His questions prompted his mother to learn more about the Catholic faith and she came to practice it regularly.

6—He soon used his computer skills to compile information about Eucharistic miracles and different shrines of the Blessed Mother, a number of which he visited. He created websites on these topics as a means of evangelization.

7—As he grew, so did his faith. He was known for reaching out to the poor, defending controversial Church teachings, standing up for classmates who were bullied and being kind to students whose parents were going through a divorce.

B—The greatest love of his life was Jesus present in the Eucharist.

1—He pointed out that in the time of Jesus' public ministry, people had to travel, sometimes great distances, to reach him while all we have to do is go to church where he's waiting for us. He said, *We have Jerusalem on our doorsteps. Jerusalem in every church!*

2—With a sense of intimacy, he would say, *Jesus, come right in! Make yourself at home!* What a beautiful prayer to pray before or after Communion. *Jesus, come right in! Make yourself at home!*

3—He described the Eucharist as, *my highway to heaven.*

C—At fifteen he came down with what seemed to be the flu but what was in fact a very aggressive form of leukemia.

1—He told his parents, *I offer what I have to suffer to the Lord for the Pope, for the Church, to skip purgatory and go straight to heaven.*

2—He said, *Golgotha is for everyone. No one escapes the cross.*

3—He died just days after his diagnosis. His name is Carlo Acutis, Blessed Carlo Acutis and soon to be, Saint Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint.

D—We celebrate today the great solemnity of Corpus Christi, the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

1—By Jesus' human birth, God entered into our world, to draw close to us, scandalously close to us; so close that sometimes people have a hard time believing it.

2—Here in the Eucharist, Jesus continues to enter into our world and draw close to us, scandalously close to us; so close that sometimes people have a hard time believing it.

E—There's a true story of a man who had considered becoming Catholic. He took the classes many times but he had one challenge. He couldn't quite get the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Eventually he did and said the challenge wasn't the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist but rather to accept that God really loved him that much. Once he came to that conclusion, the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist was easy.

F—The gospel today takes us to the Last Supper.

1—Now human words sometimes are effective, other times, not. A law enforcement officer can say you're under arrest and you are but if someone else says it, the words are ineffective. Your boss can say you're fired and that's what happens but if someone else says that, it doesn't happen.

2—Jesus' words are always effective. He rebukes a storm and it quiets down. He says to a cripple, arise and walk and the cripple does. And so too, when Jesus says, this is my body, that's what happens.

G–In the Eucharist, Jesus makes a gift of himself to us and makes a gift of his saving work.

1–At Mass, we enter into the hour of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

2–In Holy Communion, we receive Jesus but Jesus also receives us. Here Jesus seeks to enter into a deeper and more intimate friendship with us. Here, Jesus draws close to us, scandalously close.

3–Does God really love us that much? Yes he does. God is love. God loves us and God desires our love.

H–The Eucharist unites us to Christ and to each other. It doesn’t close us in on ourselves but rather draws us out of ourselves.

1–Jesus was led out of himself onto the Cross and God’s love leads us out of ourselves into a deeper love with others.

2–Seeing Jesus in the Eucharist is to lead us to seeing Jesus in others, especially the poor and needy. The same Jesus who said, *This is my body* is the same Jesus who said, *I was hungry and you gave me to eat.*

3–The Eucharist isn’t just a ritual. It’s entering into the moment of Jesus’ death and resurrection. It’s a way of life, a way of thanksgiving, a way of receiving the gift of himself that Jesus lovingly makes of himself and then of lovingly making a gift of ourselves in return.

4–The Eucharist nourishes us to live lives of intentional faith; not accidental faith, not hit or miss faith, not cultural faith but lives of intentional faith where our faith in Christ is the rudder guiding the ship of our lives.

I–Blessed Carlo Acutis grasped that gift of God’s love in the Eucharist, that Highway to Heaven. With each worthy Communion, may we join him in saying, *Jesus, come right in! Make yourself at home!*