



## ITALIAN TEEN ON ROAD TO SAINTHOOD RELATABLE TO TODAY'S YOUTH



For the first time in the history of the Church we can witness a seemingly average teen, who was most commonly dressed in jeans, tennis shoes, and sweatshirt; be named Blessed on his path to sainthood.

Carlo Acutis of Milan, Italy, died at the age of 15 in 2006, a week after he was diagnosed with leukemia. The story of Carlo not only provides inspiration and relatability for today's youth, but also provides religious and religion teachers an example of how we can be modern day saints.

The Beatification Mass of Acutis will be held at the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy, and broadcast live on EWTN Oct. 10th at 10AM(ET).

Acutis loved the outdoors, video games, sports, and computers. He also enjoyed school mainly, because it was a chance to hang out with friends. He was actually considered a computer expert for his age, having learned programming in elementary school at a collegiate level. While he was extremely savvy in and enthusiastic about technology, he was also devoted to something else on an extraordinary level - Christ and the Church. His faith has been described as "pure and certain."

He went to Mass every day. When people would ask him what his plans were for the future he would say, "To always be close to Jesus. That's my life plan."

He was surprised, as he grew older, that his friends did not have the same devotion and need for Christ in their lives. He frequently told his friends that the "Eucharist is my highway to heaven." He hoped the same for them. He knew the power of the internet and chose to use it as online evangelization. He created a website dedicated to the Eucharistic Miracles of the World - [WWW.MIRACOLIEUCARISTICI.ORG](http://WWW.MIRACOLIEUCARISTICI.ORG). There he presented his research as a virtual museum. His friends and family continue to carry on the website and Acutis' hope that it will bring people to Church and the Eucharist. The site is presented in 17 languages and the Eucharistic Miracles exhibit can be downloaded as posters for free and shared in parishes and schools.

Reverend Carlo Ferreira, rector of St. Mary Major Church in Assisi, the home of the tomb of Acutis, said pilgrims come from all over the world to pray before his tomb to ask Acutis to intercede for them. Acutis' body can be viewed through Oct. 17th. Many news agencies have release photos, but the shrine, where he entombed can be viewed via webcam at: [WWW.MARIAVISION.IT/SANTUARIO-SPOGLIAZIONE-ASSISI](http://WWW.MARIAVISION.IT/SANTUARIO-SPOGLIAZIONE-ASSISI)

## THE CHURCH'S THREE STEPS TO SAINTHOOD

Pope Francis frequently reminds us that we are all called to be saints.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whomever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."- 1Peter 4:10-11

There are three steps to sainthood: venerable, blessed, and then saint. To be venerable the deceased person must be recognized formally by the pope as having lived saintly - heroically virtuous life or offered their life. A rigorous investigation must occur into the person's life in order to move on to the next step.

The second step is beatification and recognized as a blessed. One miracle acquired through the candidate's intercession is required in addition to recognition of heroic virtue or offering of life.

Canonization, declaration of saint, requires a second miracle after beatification. A pope may waive these requirements. A miracle is not required prior to a martyr's beatification, but one is required before canonization.

*To note: Reverend Michael McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus, will be beatified on Oct. 31, watch for a feature story on him in the Oct. 23rd edition of your FaithInWV e-bulletin.*

# CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE MOTHERS' SAINT - OCT. 16<sup>TH</sup>

It is an interesting story why a man, yet a religious and virgin, be known as "The Mothers' Saint."

St. Gerard Majella was born in 1726 in Muro, Italy, the youngest of four children of Domenico and Benedetta Majella. They attended Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Graces. As a toddler, Gerard particularly loved



a statue of the Madonna and Jesus, once able to speak called it the "pretty lady with the baby."

He was so fond of his church he would frequently run off to go inside. History notes he came home several time to tell his mother, "See what I got from the little boy," and then hold out his hands

to reveal a small loaf of bread. Once his mother followed him and "what she saw stunned her because the statue of Our Lady of Graces apparently came to life and the child she was holding scampered down to play with Gerard," according to a story in Liguorian Magazine by Alicia Von Stamwitz, October 2009

(see the story by [CLICKING HERE](#)).

When he was only 12, his father died. So, to support the family Gerard learned to sew and eventually took a job for the local bishop. Accounts of his life note that Gerard was beaten during his apprenticeship. He was ignored and taken for granted by the bishop, who was

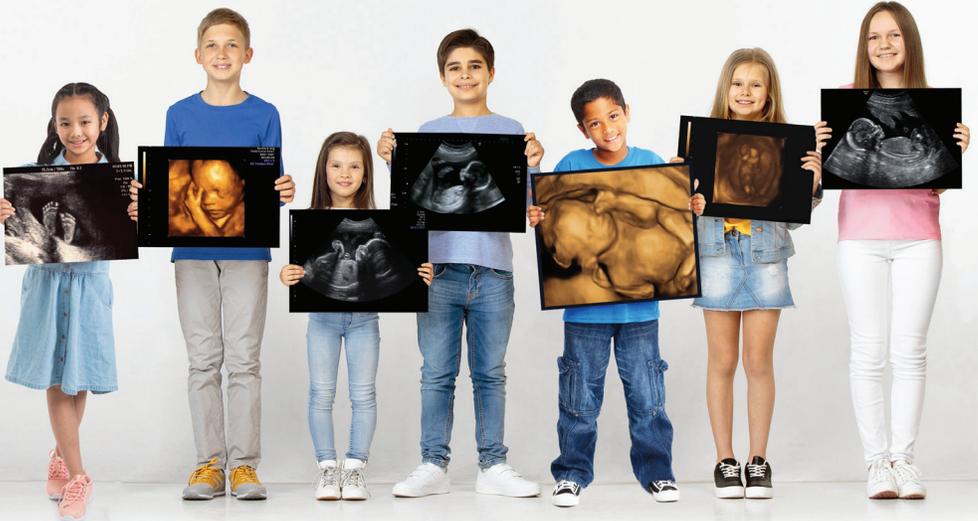
known for "angry outbursts and nagging." However, Gerard did not let it break his spirit. On the contrary, he became well known for his genuine kindness and compassion for all people, especially the poor and ill.

He wanted to be a Capuchin friar, but they turned him away, because he was too frail. His mother begged him to eat, but he insisted on fasting and penance. He eventually entered into religious life as a lay brother for the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (the Redemptorists).

He is most related to expectant mothers and the unborn, notably because of a visit to a friend's home months before St. Gerard died. He was leaving the Pirofalo home, when he dropped his handkerchief. One of the daughters picked it up to return it. He said, "Keep it. It will be useful to you someday." She kept it as a treasure from her father's reverent friend. Years later when she was in labor doctors told her she and her baby were in danger of dying during birth. She remembered and retrieved the handkerchief. Almost immediately her pain was gone, and the child was born alive and well.

## ABORTION

DOES NOT END THE LIFE OF A POTENTIAL HUMAN BEING...



ABORTION ENDS THE LIFE  
OF AN ACTUAL HUMAN BEING  
WITH GREAT POTENTIAL



DIocese of WHEELING-CHARLESTON

If you or someone you know is facing an unplanned pregnancy, get support at 888-550-1588 (call/text)



*St. Gerard,*

*please intercede for the unborn and expectant mothers.*

*Pray for the voiceless, those considering abortion, and those who do not understand abortion ends God's gift of life.*

*St. Gerard, petition for those wanting a child, those who have suffered miscarriage, and those whose babies were still born.*

*May we willingly promote the dignity and value of all human life. Amen.*

## PROVIDING NUTRITION FOR WEST VIRGINIA CHILDREN

By Katie Hinerman Klug, Catholic Charities West Virginia Marketing Communications Specialist



Children in a home-based family care program are introduced to new and nutritious foods as they enjoy a healthy meal provided with assistance from the CCWVa Child Care Food Program.

Rebecca has been a family child care provider enrolled with Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) Child Care Food Program since 2017. Family child care occurs in a home with a family environment and a smaller number of children than a daycare or child care center.

"Home-based programs like family child care provide a consistent caregiver for a child and may offer flexible hours when parents need care in the evenings or

weekends," said Jane Rose, CCWVa Child Care Food Program Director. "Families with multiple children also like this type of setting because siblings are cared for together rather than separated into different age groups."

Rebecca has a state issued license to provide care for six children at once, and she has 20 children enrolled in her family child care. These children are in care during different times of the day and on different days of the week.

The CCWVa Child Care Food Program assists in-home child care providers like Rebecca with serving healthy, fulfilling meals to the children in their care. The program also educates and assists caregivers in meal planning and application for meal cost reimbursements through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Read the full story in the Oct. 9 issue of The Catholic Spirit. Sign up to receive weekly electronic edition of The Catholic Spirit, e-mailed every Friday, by sending an e-mail request to: [CROWAN@DWC.ORG](mailto:CROWAN@DWC.ORG).

For more news and information from The Catholic Spirit visit [THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG](http://THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG) or follow on Facebook at [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THECATHOLICSPIRITWV](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THECATHOLICSPIRITWV)

## THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT IS NOW AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL!!

You are invited to join our new e-list to receive The Catholic Spirit by e-mail. To be added to the e-list, send an e-mail to Colleen Rowan, [CROWAN@DWC.ORG](mailto:CROWAN@DWC.ORG), with "The Catholic Spirit e-list" in the subject line. Please let us know your preference saying: "E-mail only, and remove me from print mailing list" or "I would like both print and e-mail versions."

By joining the e-mail list, you will receive an e-mail on each issue date of The Catholic Spirit with a link to the full issue.

The Catholic Spirit will now be available under "Downloadable Spirit" at [THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG](http://THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG).

## CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF ST. TERESA OF AVILA ON OCT. 15<sup>TH</sup>

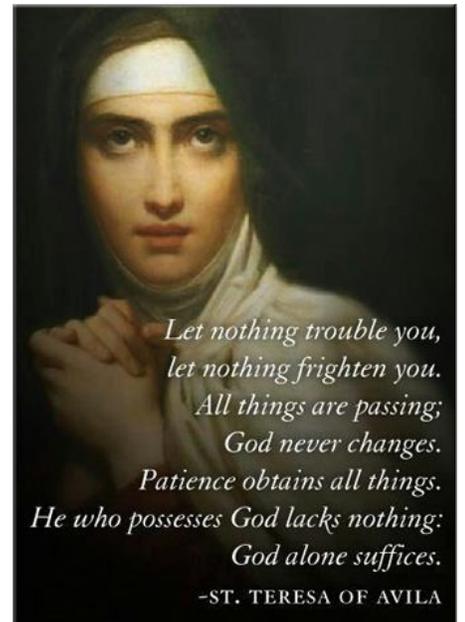
Saint Teresa of Avila is known as a woman to be reckoned with - the reformer of the Carmelite Order, reviving or founding at least 17 monasteries for nuns and 15 for friars. She stood against corruptions of the Church and her Carmelite Order. She was considered a radical in her day during the 1500's. However, in all she did her eyes remained fixed on Jesus. She did not lose focus on Him. Her Charisma made others want the same.

Her religious superiors insisted she write her about her insights, spiritual visions, and her relationship with God. These writings are considered classics in the Church and are the reason she is

considered one of the greatest Doctors of the Church.

Her writings include *The Way of Perfection*, a guide to prayer, emphasizing the importance of having a deep love of prayer, great humility, and detachment of material things. Her book *The Interior Castle* is a mystical writing of the soul and union with God. Her autobiography *The Life - The Life of Teresa of Jesus* describes her life from childhood through her fifties, and how her experiences can "profit souls."

May we all seek friendship with the Lord. No matter how blessed or broken we are; let us know for certain, like St. Teresa of Avila, that he loves us.



*Let nothing trouble you,  
let nothing frighten you.  
All things are passing;  
God never changes.  
Patience obtains all things.  
He who possesses God lacks nothing:  
God alone suffices.*  
-ST. TERESA OF AVILA

# MASS READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## First Reading ISAIAH 25:6-10A

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

## Responsorial PSALMS 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6

**R. (6cd) I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

**R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage.

**R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

**R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

## Second Reading PHILIPPIANS 4:12-14, 19-20

Brothers and sisters:

I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress.

My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Alleluia EPHESIANS 1:17-18

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel MATTHEW 22:1-14 OR 22:1-10

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."' Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen."

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

Following in the footsteps of Pope Francis in his new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, let us pray that we may always promote fraternity and social friendship, especially towards the poor, the abandoned, the infirmed, outcast, and those who are different from us, we pray . . .

As we approach closer to Election Day, may we be respectful of those with whom we do not agree, and discern in our hearts which candidates are committed to caring for all and seeking the common good, we pray . . .

For those who have suffered abuse or exploitation, that they may receive help and hope in their darkness and despair, we pray . . .

For all those affected by the Coronavirus, for their healing and for and to this terrible pandemic, we pray . . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

# LET US GO *Rejoicing* TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

PSALM 122



## UPDATED GUIDELINES RELEASED

Bishop Mark E. Brennan released updated guidelines for our churches and facilities.

- New Norms for Reopening Parish Facilities for Meetings and Gatherings
- Updated Liturgical Guidelines
- Music Protocols for Liturgical Celebrations

These are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org).

*Liturgy of the Hours*

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.

[EBREVIARY.COM](http://EBREVIARY.COM) [LITURGY OF THE HOURS](#)



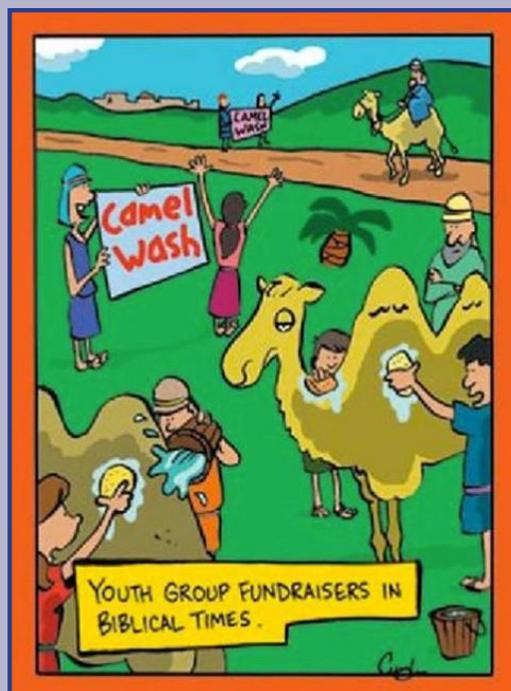
## WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City - Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.7

~Also Streaming in WV at [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL)~

WV Catholic Radio [www.WVCatholicRadio.org](http://www.WVCatholicRadio.org)

## A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



## MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at [DWC.ORG](http://DWC.ORG).

Below are four options for enriching your spirit through daily Mass online.

- EWTN airs daily Mass from Our Lady of Angels Chapel, in Irondale, Alabama, at 8am, noon, and 7pm: [HTTPS://WWW.EWTN.COM/TV/WATCH-LIVE](https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live)
- St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York has daily Mass live streamed at 7am: [HTTPS://SAINTPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.ORG/LIVE](https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live)
- Catholic TV also streams its daily Mass: [HTTP://CATHOLICTV.ORG/MASSES/CATHOLICTV-MASS](http://catholicTV.org/masses/catholicTV-mass)
- Daily Mass Online at Notre Dame' Basilica of the Sacred Heart is live at 11:30 am Monday-Friday: [HTTPS://CAMPUSMINISTRY.ND.EDU/MASS-WORSHIP/BASILICA-OF-THE-SACRED-HEART/WATCH-MASS/SPECIAL-MASSSES/](https://campusministry.nd.edu/mass-worship/basilica-of-the-sacred-heart/watch-mass/special-masses/)